

TOWN OF STURBRIDGE, MA
BOARD OF HEALTH
February 27, 2024

Meeting Called to Order: 2:00 PM

Quorum Check: Confirmed

Members Present: Linda Cocalis (LC) – present; Dr. Louis Fazen (LF) – via phone; Richard Volpe (RV) – present

Members Absent: None

Others Present:

Kenneth B. Lacey, Jr. (KL), Health Agent

Laura Sherris (LS), Health Department Administrative Assistant

2:00 PM – Meeting called to order.

2:00 PM – Review Minutes – Minutes from the January 23, 2024 Board of Health (BOH) meeting are reviewed.

2:03 PM – LC motions to accept the January 23, 2024 minutes as drafted; RV 2nd. AIF: LC, LF, RV; unanimous.

2:04 PM – New Business – Office, Charlton Coalition for Public Health (CCPH) updates – KL states that CCPH members continue to work on adding a part-time position to supplement the existing Outreach Coordinator position. KL states the Health Department will be completing training on food and housing inspectional software beginning in the spring. KL states that the individuals in the Emergency Assistance Shelter program will remain in Sturbridge for the time being after the cancelation of an anticipated relocation; he states there have been no issues involving the BOH at this point. KL states that the majority of 2024 BOH permitting has been completed; RV states that the permit renewal process has gone more quickly and smoothly than prior years. LC states that discussion is ongoing regarding the junkyard on Mashapaug Road; KL states that there is no BOH oversight of the property as it is not permitted through the BOH, but that the BOH can speak with the Select Board regarding any concerns.

2:15 PM – LF's phone connection fails and he is unable to rejoin the meeting; quorum remains.

LC states that she has received complaints regarding noise at the Hayloft Steppers facility on Podunk Road; KL, LC, and RV discuss the potential for the BOH to discuss the matter with other departments for more information; there is no direct action to be taken by the BOH as the group and facility are not permitted by the BOH. KL presents information from EA Engineering regarding groundwater testing results at the landfill; he states that one well has tested in exceedance of allowable arsenic amounts, requiring additional testing and analysis to determine any ongoing issues and fix actions. LC and RV state their approval of moving forward with EA Engineering's proposed plan regarding the extra testing and analysis. KL states that EA

Engineering also provided the requested proposal for a study regarding the Recycling Center; LC, and RV agree that the issues being corrected at the landfill should be the current focus, with a Recycling Center study to potentially occur once the landfill issues are considered resolved. KL states that the majority of short-term issues around operation and maintenance at the landfill have been resolved and long-term issues continue to be addressed. KL states that simple fixes, i.e.: signage, line painting, etc., could address the largest issues identified at the Recycling Center, and that he will speak with the facility manager about potential fix actions. LC states that it may be a good time to raise the prices of the Pay as You Throw (PAYT) trash bags; KL, LC, and RV agree that an increase to \$1.00 for small bags and \$2.00 for large bags is justifiable by the increased cost of landfill operation. KL states that a fee hearing is necessary to increase the PAYT bag cost; KL, LC, and RV agree that a hearing in May would provide ample time to complete the required posting and advertising.

2:54 PM – Soup to Nuts food permit hearing – KL states that Soup to Nuts Café has been operating without a Food Establishment permit since January 1, 2023. KL and LS outline measures taken to attempt to contact the business about correcting the issue; with all attempts, they received no response from the business. LC and RV agree that the business should be closed by the BOH due to violations of 105 CMR 590.000 with reopening contingent on correction of all compliance issues. KL states the Health Department will post closure signs as soon as possible.

3:04 PM – LC motions to adjourn the meeting; RV 2nd. AIF: LC, RV; unanimous

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Sherris
Health Department Administrative Assistant