

**TOWN OF STURBRIDGE, MA**  
**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**March 12, 2024**

**Meeting Called to Order: 2:00 PM**

**Quorum Check:** Confirmed

**Members Present:** Linda Cocalis (LC); Dr. Louis Fazen (LF)

**Members Absent:** Richard Volpe (RV)

**Others Present:**

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

Laura Sherris (LS), Health Department Administrative Assistant

Marielise Tuller (MT), Health Inspector

John Quinlivan (JQ), Soup to Nuts Café

Michael Scheffler (MS), resident, South Road

**2:00 PM** – Meeting called to order.

**Review Minutes** – Minutes from the February 27, 2024 Board of Health (BOH) meeting are reviewed. LF states he would like to abstain from voting on the minutes due to his remote access disconnecting, causing him to miss the majority of the February meeting. Voting on the February 27, 2024 BOH meeting is held in abeyance due to lack of quorum with RV's absence.

**New Business – Office, Charlton Coalition for Public Health (CCPH) updates** – KL states that CCPH Regional Health Inspector Emily Quinn has been completing standard hotel inspections. KL states the Health Department will be completing training on food and housing inspectional software in April. LS and MT provide an update regarding the upcoming Massachusetts Tattoo and Art Festival, stating that the permitting process has been going exceptionally well and that they anticipate a smooth inspection process at the event.

**New Business – Soup to Nuts Café** – JQ states that he was unaware that his Food Safety Protection Manager, Allergen Awareness, and ChokeSaver certifications were expired; he states that he has been operating the restaurant since 1982 and is currently running the business on his own. KL presents the Board with a list of food establishment permitting deficiencies for the café. KL, LC, and JQ discuss food sourcing for the business. LF inquires if the business is currently open; KL states that the business was closed per the BOH on February 27, 2024 immediately after discussing the issue during that afternoon's BOH meeting; signs were posted stating Soup to Nuts Café was closed per the BOH; upon returning to the location the next week to follow up KL discovered that JQ had removed the closure signs and opened for business. LC asks for MT's opinion as the health inspector; MT states that it is difficult to speak definitively about any issue, as JQ has not provided a menu to the Health Department, limiting knowledge of practices at the establishment, and thus limiting recommendations to be made. MT states that based on previous inspections, she does strongly recommend improvement of standard operating

procedures and food safety practices. LC and LF discuss the ability to keep the business open while working on reaching compliance and agree that if all required certifications are completed by the April BOH meeting JQ will not be required to appear in front of the Board again.

**LF motions to grant a one-month food establishment permit to Soup to Nuts Café while required certifications are being obtained by John Quinlivan; LC 2<sup>nd</sup>; AIF: LC, LF; unanimous.**

**New Business** – LC invites Michael Scheffler to speak. MS states he is a resident of South Road near the junkyard located at 71 Mashapaug Road, and that he and neighbors have concerns regarding the property and are attending board meetings throughout town to raise their concerns. LC states she is familiar with the issue and has spoken to the state. LC, KL, and MS discuss the potential of municipal permitting of junkyards and coordination with the state regarding oversight and potential contamination. LC states she will be attending the upcoming Select Board meeting where the issue will be discussed further.

**New Business – Animal Inspector Nomination** – KL, LC, and LF discuss the annual nomination required by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Division of Animal Health.

**LC motions to reappoint Michelle Connors as the Animal Inspector for the Town of Sturbridge; LF 2<sup>nd</sup>. AIF: LC, LF; unanimous.**

**Old Business – Landfill/Recycling Center Updates** – KL, LC, and LF discuss ongoing projects at the landfill and recycling center facilities. KL and LC state that Health Department time and resources are being consumed by landfill oversight, making a recycling center study and potential updates unfeasible at this time. LF states that if a formal study is not forthcoming, smaller fix actions at the recycling center should be taken as soon as possible. KL states fixes for areas of concern are currently being discussed and implemented. LC, LF, and KL discuss logistics for a June 11, 2024 hearing to increase the fees associated with the Pay as You Throw (PAYT) bags used by residents for household trash disposal at the recycling center and landfill facility.

**Set Next Meeting** – All agree to the next BOH meeting being held on April 16, 2024 at 2:00 PM.

**4:27 PM – LC motions to adjourn the meeting; LF 2<sup>nd</sup>. AIF: LC, LF; unanimous**