

Town of Topsfield Board of Health  
Meeting of Thursday, November 13, 2014  
Town Hall, 8 West Common Street, Topsfield, MA 01983

Meeting Minutes

Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §§ 18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk and delivered to all Board members, a meeting of the Topsfield Board of Health, Thursday, November 13, 2014 at 7:30 pm in the Conference Room of Topsfield Town Hall. A Public Hearing, duly advertised in the Tri Town Transcript on October 31 and November 7, is also included in tonight's meeting to review, hear public comment, and vote on proposed changes to Topsfield Youth Access to Tobacco Regulations.

Board of Health Members present: Chairman William Hunt ESQ; Clerk Sheryl Knutsen RN; Vincent Guerra MD; Gerald Topping PE.

Others present: John Coulon RS, Health Agent; Susan Winslow, Minutes Secretary; Richard Gandt, Selectman; Ronald Beauregard, Healthy Communities.

ABBREVIATIONS:

CDC: Center for Disease Control  
CEU: Continuing Education Units  
DEP: Department of Environmental Protection  
DPH: Department of Public Health  
EDS: Emergency Dispensing Site  
EP: Emergency Preparedness  
EPA: Environmental Protection Agency  
ESQ: Esquire  
LSAC: Local State Advisory Committee  
MAHB: Massachusetts Association of Health Boards  
MDPH: Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
MHOA: Massachusetts Health Officers Association  
MRC: Medical Reserve Corps  
NEMMC: Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control  
PE: Professional Engineer  
PHEP: Public Health Emergency Preparedness  
RN: Registered Nurse  
RS: Registered Sanitarian  
TBOH: Topsfield Board of Health  
TRMRC: Topsfield Regional Medical Reserve Corps  
US: United States

Public Information  
Agenda

## **HEARING:**

With a quorum present, Mr. Hunt called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

7:30 pm. The Public Hearing was opened regarding revisions to Town of Topsfield Board of Health Regulation R:1-6 Youth Access to Tobacco.

Ms. Knutsen read the Legal Notice regarding the Public Hearing into the record.

### **R:1-6 Youth Access to Tobacco**

Mr. Topping presented the Board with a copy of updated Topsfield Regulation R:1-6 (marked 'Exhibit A') which included changes to the regulation. The Board discussed the proposed changes.

*VOTE: Mr. Topping made a motion to adopt the highlighted language in Topsfield Regulation R:1-6 as indicated in 'Exhibit A'. Ms. Knutsen seconded and the motion carried in a unanimous vote.*

### **Model Regulations: Youth Access to Tobacco R: 1-6:**

Mr. Ronald Beauregard from Healthy Communities presented the Board with Model Regulations titled "SAMPLE REGULATIONS RESTRICTING THE SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS" for the Board's review.

A discussion ensued including:

- Concerns about tobacco industry targeting children between ages 11 - 14
- Ms. Knutsen cited the following statistics from the 2011 Tri-Town Coalition Youth Risk Behavior Survey:
  - 28% of 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders reported smoking in their lifetime
  - 14% of 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders reported smoking in the 30 days prior to taking the Survey
  - 5% of 9-12 graders reported smoking their first cigarette before 9<sup>th</sup> grade
  - The average age of youth smokers in the Tri-Town is 15.4 years
- Mr. Beauregard informed the Board about the various nicotine delivery devices including e-cigarettes (vaping), flavored liquid used in these devices and flavored cigars
- Mr. Hunt voiced his opposition to compliance checks involving youth
- Mr. Coulon reminded the Board that Mr. Beauregard was attending the meeting at the Board's invitation
- Mr. Beauregard and Mr. Coulon explained that their motivation is to work with local tobacco retailers to ensure compliance with the law

## **APPOINTMENTS:**

Mr. Joseph Collins, candidate for Board of Health Member position

Mr. Collins did not attend this meeting. The Board was informed that an email and reminder letter about this appointment were sent to Mr. Collins prior to the meeting. Mr. Coulon will follow up with Mr. Collins with an invitation to the December 18, 2014 TBOH meeting.

## **MINUTES:**

August 28, 2014 Minutes were reviewed. Dr. Guerra pointed out an error on page 3: the word complainant will be changed to compliant.

*VOTE: Mr. Topping made a motion to accept the August 28, 2014 Minutes with one edit as noted. Dr. Guerra seconded and the motion carried in a unanimous vote.*

September 25, 2014 Minutes were reviewed.

*VOTE: Ms. Knutsen made a motion to accept the September 25, 2014 Minutes as written. Mr. Topping seconded and the motion carried in a unanimous vote.*

**HEALTH AGENT REPORT:**

Mr. Coulon informed the Board that Ms. Knutsen is arranging Emergency Preparedness Workshops covering Bioterror Agents and Personal Protective Equipment and Laws Governing Board of Health authority regarding Isolation and Quarantine to be held at the Gould Barn in Topsfield February 5 and 12, 2015. CEUs will be offered to those in attendance. The Board commended Ms. Knutsen for this effort.

TRMRC: We are looking forward to continued involvement with Open Gym Nights at Masconomet High School (next is 22 November ) and Topsfield's Holiday Walk ( 6 December ).

Ebola: Mr. Coulon informed the Board that MDPH has been updating Public Health and Public Safety officials with conference calls.

*VOTE: Mr. Topping made a motion to adjourn at 10:00 pm. Ms. Knutsen seconded and the motion carried in a unanimous vote.*

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Winslow, Minutes Secretary