

Town of Topsfield Board of Health
Meeting of Thursday, April 24, 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, April 24, 2014 at 7:30 pm in the Conference Room of Topsfield Town Hall.

With a quorum present, Acting Chair Sheryl Knutsen called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Board of Health Members present: Clerk and Acting Chair Sheryl Knutsen RN, Vincent Guerra MD, Wade Goldman PE, John Coulon RS, Health Agent; Susan Winslow, Minutes Secretary. Also in attendance: Randy Sabino, resident; John Morin PE, Morin-Cameron Group; Richard Guilford, owner of Gil's Grocery; Jacqueline White ESQ, resident; Ron Beauregard, Massachusetts Tobacco Control Project; Natalie Miller, DPH Intern; Richard Gandt, Selectman.

ABBREVIATIONS:

CDC: Center For Disease Control

DEP: Department of Environmental Protection

DPH: Department of Public Health

EDS: Emergency Dispensing Site

EP: Emergency Preparedness

ESQ: Esquire

MDPH: Massachusetts Department of Public Health

MPH: Master of Public Health

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

Public Information

Agenda

Introduction: John Coulon introduced DPH Summer Intern Natalie Miller to the Board. Ms. Miller is an MPH candidate at Boston University.

Minutes:

The Board reviewed the March 27, 2014 Minutes.

VOTE: Dr. Guerra moved to accept the March 27, 2014 Meeting Minutes as written. Ms. Knutsen seconded and the motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Appointments:

38 Summer Street: This item was before the Board at the February 27, 2014 and March 27, 2014 Meetings, and was tabled to this meeting. Request to recognize the septic system at 38 Summer Street as compliant 4 bedrooms under current Topsfield Board of Health and Title V Regulations.

Mr. Coulon directed the Board to reference the March 27, 2014 Topsfield Board of Health Meeting Minutes to review the request from owner Randy Sabino. Mr. Coulon presented the Board with language providing the legal underpinning requested by the Board at the March 27, 2014 meeting. The Board determined that the legal underpinning was established in order to approve this request. John Morin PE, from Neve-Cameron Group addressed the Board to give a description of the waste water system that exists in the ground at this address. He informed the Board that the revised As Built Plan submitted for 38 Summer Street incorporates the date April 24, 2014.

VOTE: Mr. Goldman made a motion to recognize the applicant's request that 38 Summer Street be considered compliant for 4-Bedrooms per current Topsfield and Massachusetts Title V Regulations. Dr. Guerra seconded and the motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Gil's Grocery Appeal of Fine for Selling Cigarettes to a Minor

Mr. James Gilford appeared before the Board to request that the \$50 fine be rescinded in lieu of a warning. Mr. Guilford told the Board that his store has been in business for sixty years, and in that time they have only one other infraction of this type that occurred 'ten or fifteen years ago,' according to Mr. Gilford. Mr. Ron Beauregard from the Tobacco Control Project spoke to the Board to say that on February 26, 2014 he sent a minor into Gil's Grocery to conduct a compliance check, at which time the youth was able to purchase a pack of cigarettes. He explained that there are 18 communities in the Tobacco Control Program, and their goal is to ensure that minors do not become addicted to cigarette smoking. Ms. Knutsen referred the Board to the Topsfield Regulations that require a \$50 Fine for a first offense, and she added that because Gil's Grocery is in such proximity to a school, they must stay in compliance with the law. Mr. Guilford pointed out that the same day of this Board Meeting, Mr. Beauregard conducted another compliance check and Gil's Grocery passed the check in full compliance with the law. Ms. Knutsen informed Mr. Guilford that the Board stands by the fine of \$50 for a first offense of selling Tobacco products to a minor. Mr. Guilford told the Board that they should do a better job educating local stores about the fines for non-compliance. Mr. Beauregard stated he would make sure Topsfield's 4 tobacco sales permit holders receive copies of up-to-date regulations. Mr. Beauregard then informed the Board that Gas N Go at 368 Boston Street failed the compliance check conducted April 24, 2014. The Board discussed the dangers and long term negative health effect of tobacco products and smoking and the rising popularity of e-cigarettes with young smokers. Mr. Beauregard informed the Board that other towns have implemented regulations on e-cigarettes and hookah bars. Ms. Knutsen requested that Mr. Beauregard send the Board samples of regulations implemented in other towns for the Board's review in order to bring regulations promulgated in 1999 to today's standards. Mr. Beauregard agreed, and he will forward information to the Board of Health.

Tick Talk

Jacqueline White, Esq., a Topsfield resident who has battled chronic Lyme Disease and its co-infections, addressed the Board to inform them about the Tick Talk scheduled for May 28 at the Gould Barn. She told the Board that, as a member of the Topsfield Friends of the Library, she worked with John Coulon last year to produce the Tick Talk and it was very successful. This year, Senator Joan Lovely is interested in attending the forum. John Coulon informed the Board that last year's speaker is unavailable, but he will contact Esteban Cuebas-Incle, PhD of NEMMC and Alfred DeMaria, Jr., MD, Medical Director of the Bureau of Infectious Disease, Prevention, Response and Services with MDPH to request their presence as

keynote speakers. He informed the Board that they spoke at the Tick Talk in 2009 and were very impressive.

Ms. White informed the Board that the CDC has discovered a new tick-borne illness carried by the “Star-Eyed Tick” [sic] which is spreading northward into the Northeast. It was suggested that the Board of Health look into possible give-aways by local pest control companies that might be interested in hosting a table at the event. Mr. Gandt asked if the local schools were given information on ticks and tick borne illness, and Mr. Coulon informed the Board that he hosts an informational table about Ticks and Preventing Tick Borne Illness at the annual Steward School Wellness Fair including tick identification charts and DPH Handouts on Lyme Disease, Babesiosis and Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis (Ehrlichiosis). Mr. Coulon noted that Melissa West and Michelle Costa from Steward School do an exceptional job with the Wellness Fair.

General Report of Activities

Mr. Goldman asked Mr. Coulon for an update on current septic projects. Mr. Coulon reported that while projects are ongoing year-round, the harsh winter curtailed many outdoor septic activities. He reported that the New Meadows project on Wildes Road and the English Commons project on Boston Street are almost completed, and a Disposal System Construction Permit had recently been issued to Larry Kelley from Kendall Construction for a new system at 50 North Street.

Mr. Coulon informed the Board that he was planning to issue a Beaver Trapping Permit for 9 Normandy Row due to the fact that Beaver Activity was backing up water and threatening the septic system at that address.

Bay Custom Homes LLC

Mr. Coulon informed the Board that Planning Board Liaison Roberta Knight informed him that Bay Custom Homes LLC has decided not to pursue a housing development at 116-120 Hill Street. Ms. Knight reports that the owners of Bay Custom Homes LLC have requested the Board vote to end the contract with Beals and Thomas for independent consultant services for witnessing soil testing. Ms Knight requested that the Board and vote to return the funds associated with this contract in the amount of \$3,885.54.

***VOTE:** Ms. Knutsen made a motion to end the contract with Beals and Thomas for independent consultant services for witnessing soil testing for 116 - 120 Hill Street, Topsfield, MA. Dr. Guerra seconded and the motion carried in a unanimous vote.*

***VOTE:** Mr. Goldman made a motion to release the funds associated with the contract for Beals and Thomas for independent consultant services for witnessing soil testing for 116 - 120 Hill Street, Topsfield, MA to Bay Custom Homes LLC. Dr. Guerra seconded and the motion carried in a unanimous vote.*

DEP Order for Nike Village Village The Board reviewed the DEP Administrative Consent Order With Penalty and Notice of Noncompliance citing Northeast Behavioral Health Corporation at Nike Village. Mr. Coulon gave the Board a brief description of the septage overflow situation that occurred at this location, and subsequent remediation activity. He informed the Board that he will be monitoring this location weekly.

Emergency Preparedness Report

Mr. Coulon and Ms. Knutsen gave the Board an update on emergency planning including the changes coming to local coalitions. Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coalitions are being defunded and PHEP monies will now be shared with Essex County hospitals, public health, ambulatory care, EMS and nursing homes.

Mr. Coulon reported that he and MDPH Summer Intern Natalie Miller, and Arthur Howe III, TRMRC Coordinator, will be attending upcoming MRC events including a 'Real Opt' training at ~~Hanseom~~ Westover Air Force Base that will include USHHS Regions 1 and 2.

Mr. Coulon reported that he is pursuing FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Awards on behalf of the Town.

VOTE: Mr. Goldman made a motion to adjourn at 10:45. Dr. Guerra seconded and the motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Winslow
Minutes Secretary