

Town of Topsfield Board of Health  
Meeting of Thursday, June 26, 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, June 26, 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 7:36 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 Topsfield resident Jeffy Demeter; Richard Gandt, Selectman.

Mr. Hunt arrived at 7:44 and Ms. Knutsen ceded Chairmanship of the meeting to him.

**ABBREVIATIONS:**

CDC: Center For Disease Control

DEP: Department of Environmental Protection

DPH: Department of Public Health

EDS: Emergency Dispensing Site

EP: Emergency Preparedness

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

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

US: United States

Public Information

Agenda

**New Business:**

Mr. Topping informed the Board that he will be doing a review of the Topsfield Regulations including but not limited to Percolation Rates, Hookah Bars and E-cigarettes (also known as Vaping), Legalizing Review of Title V Inspection Reports and a review of the existing Topsfield Board of Health Fee Schedule. The Board discussed the negative effects of Nicotine, 'Vaping' as a nicotine delivery device. Mr. Topping instructed Susan Winslow to place a discussion about Fees on the July Topsfield Board of Health Meeting Agenda.

### **Appointments:**

Ms. Jeffy Demeter, 4 Great Hill Drive, addressed the Board to inform them about her concerns regarding Fluoride in the Water. Ms. Demeter informed the Board that she is a CPA with a Master's Degree in Accounting. She became interested in Health three years ago after her father become ill and she noticed that people in her Bridge group were becoming ill. Since that time, she has engaged in self-education regarding healthy living, including studying the writings of Dr. Brownfield, a holistic practitioner and author. Her interest in Fluoride stems from her concern about high levels of Iodine in our bodies, which allows Fluoride to 'cross the blood/brain barrier,' according to Ms. Demeter.

Ms. Demeter gave the Board Members a book entitled "The Case Against Fluoride" by Paul Connett, PhD, James Beck, MD, PhD and H.S. Micklem, Dphil. Ms. Demeter gave Board Members an outline of her hour-long presentation as well as pamphlets and articles related to her concern about Fluoride in the town's public drinking water. Ms. Demeter explained the history of Fluoride and her belief that the Rockefeller family used their position in politics to advance their financial gain and alleviate the cost of disposing Sodium Fluoride, an industrial waste product produced by their industries, by falsely promoting Sodium Fluoride as a means to fight dental decay, thus starting the widespread use of Fluoride in dental practices, tooth paste and public water systems.

Ms. Demeter gave Board Members pamphlets and articles including but not limited to 'Endocrine Disruption, Public Health and National and International Security' by Theo Colborn, PhD; World Health Organization 'Tooth Decay Trends in Fluoridated and Non-Fluoridated Countries – WHO data on DMFT in 12 year olds; "Building a Database of Developmental Neurotoxicants: Evidence from Human and Animal Studies – US EPA; Bidentical Hormones 101 by Jeffrey Dach M; The Effects of Fluoride On The Thyroid Gland by Dr. Barry Durrant-Peatfield MBBS LRCP MRCS; Pineal Gland from the Fluoride Action Network; Neurobehavioral effects of developmental toxicity by Philippe Grandjean, Philip J. Landrigan.

Ms. Knutsen asked Ms. Demeter if she is part of a group or is affiliated with a group against Fluoride and she responded that she is not. Ms. Demeter claimed that Fluoride causes a host of issues ranging from Alzheimers to Autism. Mr. Hunt asked Ms. Demeter if there is a longitudinal study on the effects of Fluoride. He noted that many of the articles presented as fact contain words such as 'may, could, might' that indicate no legal substantive proof of claims in some of the articles presented to the Board.

Ms. Demeter told the Board that she is planning to spearhead a citizens petition to demand that Fluoride is removed from the public water in Topsfield through a ballot question on the Town Meeting Warrant or through a special Town Meeting. She told the Board that her appearance was not to ask for the Board's support, but to inform them that she is moving forward publicly. She claims that tooth decay is not from a lack of fluoridation but due to diet.

Mr. Topping referred to the recent Water Quality Report for the town of Topsfield and noted that the town falls well below the federal contaminant level regarding Fluoride in the water.

The Board acknowledged the effort that Ms. Demeter put into her presentation and thanked her for speaking at the meeting.

### **Meeting Minutes**

*VOTE: Mr. Topping made a motion to accept the May 22, 2014 Meeting Minutes as submitted. Ms. Knutsen seconded. Ms. Knutsen, Mr. Topping and Dr. Guerra voted in the affirmative; Mr. Hunt abstained and the motion carried in a majority vote.*

Mr. Topping left the meeting at 9:00 pm.

### **State Ethics and Open Meeting Law Materials**

Mr. Coulon explained that the Town Clerk's office is requiring all Board Members who have not been sworn in by the Town Clerk to do so as soon as possible. He handed out the state required documents regarding the renewal of signatures on Open Meeting Law and State Ethics. Each Board Member is required to review the material and sign the document confirming that they have done so.

Mr. Hunt requested that the Board Secretary send out current information on State Ethics and Open Meeting Laws in case there have been 'session law' changes since the Board signed these forms two years ago. He noted that Board Members should review the materials in case there have been changes to the laws since that time. Ms. Winslow will follow up with the material posted by the Town Clerk's office and she will send the link to all Board Members.

### **Bill Warrant**

The Bill Warrant was reviewed and signed by Board Members.

### **FY15 Meeting Dates**

*VOTE: Dr. Guerra made a motion to accept the meeting dates presented to the Board through the month of December, 2014 including: June 26, 2014; July 24, 2014; August 28, 2014; September 25, 2014; October 23, 2014; November 20, 2014; December 18, 2014. Ms. Knutsen seconded and the motion carried in a unanimous vote.*

### **Health Agent Report**

Mr. Coulon informed the Board that clothing with the Public Health logo is helpful with identification when he is in the field.

Mr. Coulon gave the Board an update on TRMRC Activities including trainings and seminars he and TRMRC Coordinator Arthur Howe III have attended in recent weeks.

Mr. Coulon gave the Board a report on the recent Mass Antibiotic Dispensing Training he and Ms. Knutsen attended. Ms. Knutsen joined Mr. Coulon in describing the information disseminated at the event including general information on caches of antibiotics and medicines, projected time frames and deployment plans for the movement and dispensing of antibiotics and medicines in the event of a public health emergency. Mr. Coulon informed the Board that he, Ms. Knutsen and Ms. Winslow also participated in an Emergency Dispensing Plan Tabletop Exercise in Peabody, MA to test the efficacy of the Peabody EDS plan. Mr. Coulon explained that the Proctor School is the site chosen for an EDS in Topsfield. Mr. Hunt and Dr. Guerra commended Mr. Coulon and Ms. Knutsen for being proactive in this area and Mr. Hunt suggested that the town consider a live drill of the EDS plan. Mr. Coulon explained that the H1N1 Vaccine Clinic in which over 1,000 people were inoculated at the Topsfield Fair Grounds served as a positive drill for Topsfield. He added that Topsfield's EDS plan includes a periodic Call Down Drill to ensure that all contact

information is current. Mr. Hunt requested to be included in the next Call Down Drill. Ms. Knutsen gave the Board a review of the Incident Command System structure.

#### Willowdale Estate Septic Overflow

Mr. Coulon gave the Board an update on the septic situation at Willowdale Estate. Recently, a power outage resulted in the failure of the pumping mechanism at that address, although back up power should have maintained the integrity of the system. The failure resulted in the release of waste water from a manhole cover across the lawn, which was viewed by a hiker and reported to the Health Agent the next day via email. Mr. Coulon informed the Board that he followed up on the report which was delayed by a server situation. Mr. Coulon called Claire Golden at DEP and because the property is owned by the State and leased by Briar Rose Forsythe, it falls under DEP jurisdiction. He said that the case is still developing and he will monitor the situation.

#### **Review of Health Agent FY14 Performance**

The Board met with Mr. Coulon to discuss his performance review.

*The Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:59 pm*

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Winslow  
Minutes Secretary