

BOARD OF HEALTH
Bangs Community Center: Lower Meeting Room
Minutes

May 15, 2014

BOH Members: David Ahlfeld; Marco Boscardin; Nancy Gilbert; Julie Marcus
BOH Excused: Diane Amsterdam, MD
Staff: Julie Federman; Pamela Field-Sadler
Other: See Attached List

Meeting opened at 7:08 p.m.

I. Review & Receive

A. Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting Minutes from April 3, 2014 –**Approved**

Vote: David Ahlfeld: abstain; Marco Boscardin: aye; Nancy Gilbert: aye;
Julie Marcus: aye

II. Old Business

A. Water Fluoridation

Ellie Kurth, Amherst DPW explained data regarding the level of naturally-occurring fluoride in unfinished source water is limited. An in-house testing program of raw water has been implemented, but will need time in order to provide good assessment data. Ms. Kurth pointed out five wells exist in town and two surface water sources. Ms. Kurth confirmed the town purchases fluoride which meets quality standards through a bidding process. The Board of Health (BOH) reviewed evidence that the City of Northampton voted twice, December 8, 1953 and November 6, 1974, to discontinue a water fluoridation program due to cost. Ms. Federman explained she had contacted the Department of Public Health (DPH) who in turn referred her to an organization willing to provide a presentation to the BOH regarding fluoride; however, this organization is an advocacy for fluoridation. Ms. Federman will explore a community forum. The BOH members have continued to research this item and shared their findings, as well as reiterated their confidence in recommendations provided by the Center for Disease Control. The BOH recognizes disparities exist for vulnerable populations in the community in accessing oral health care. The BOH shared their commitment to consider this item; however, fluoridation will not be discussed at their June 2014 meeting. The BOH pointed out there have been items which have required discussions to continue over the course of a year in order to reach a decision. The BOH listened to comments brought forward by the audience including:

- Diet is critical to oral health. Foods and drinks with high acidity are accessible and consumed regularly by children.
- Teeth are weakened by drilling.

- People opposed to drinking fluoridated water can remove the mineral through a filtering process.
- Graphs were shared showing a trend in the prevalence of caries falling worldwide regardless of the level of fluoride in water supplies in the last 30 years.
- If a community forum is planned, the suggestion was made that a moderator could be useful.
- The suggestion was made to consider the approach utilized in Dallas, Texas for planning a community forum.
- Presenters for a community forum need to be knowledgeable and unbiased.

B. Suggested Modifications: *Regulations for Refuse Collection and Mandatory Recycling*

The Board of Health reviewed suggested modifications for the *Regulations for Refuse Collection and Mandatory Recycling* drafted by Mr. Boscardin. The modifications allow for pay-as-you-go disposal options.

Motion: Ms. Gilbert made the motion, seconded by Ms. Marcus, to approve the *Regulations for Refuse Collection and Mandatory Recycling* with modifications effective July 1, 2014. **Vote:** Unanimously Approved

III. Topics Not Anticipated By the Chair 48 Hours Prior To The Meeting

A. Board of Health Chairperson

After serving seven years on the Board of Health (BOH), Chairman Ahlfeld will step down at the end of his term on June 30, 2014. The BOH discussed the need for a Chairperson beginning July 1, 2014.

Motion: Ms. Marcus made the motion, seconded by Mr. Boscardin, to designate Ms. Gilbert as the Board of Health Chairperson for one year beginning July 1, 2014, and to return to an annual rotating schedule for the Chairperson position. **Vote:** Unanimously Approved

IV. Director's Report and Update

A. Board of Health Upcoming Position

John Tobiason is considering the position which will become available July 1, 2014.

B. Tara Lashway Recognition

Ms. Federman shared that Tara Lashway was presented with the certificate and congratulated on the behalf of the Board of Health for her performance of the Heimlich Maneuver to aid a choking victim while working in a local restaurant.

C. Beaver Permit

Ms. Federman explained the Board of Health may receive a Beaver Permit application for consideration soon.

D. WNV/EEE

Ms. Federman explained she is discussing best practices and preparing for mosquito season with the Health Directors from Northampton and Belchertown. Ms. Federman has met with the local schools and together they

have determined during July, August and September, activities shall not be planned during after dusk hours. Ms. Federman is working to post signs at the conservation areas and educational materials are being developed for distribution.

V. Schedule Next Board of Health Meeting/Agenda Closing Date

The following Board of Health meetings are scheduled:

June 12, 2014

July 17, 2014

Pamela Field-Sadler, Management Assistant

Approved: June 12, 2014

Board of Health
May 15, 2014
Bangs Community Center: Lower Meeting Room
Meeting Document List

The following documents were available to the Board of Health during their scheduled meeting. These documents are available for review at the:

Amherst Health Department, 70 Boltwood Walk, Amherst, MA 01002

- Meeting Agenda
- Meeting Minutes: April 3, 2014 (draft)
- Fluoride Discussion
 1. Memorandum from Guilford Mooring, DPW Director
 2. Northampton Records
 - April 9, 1957
 - 1973 -74
 3. Correspondence from Jonathan N. Evans
 4. Is fluoridation of drinking water effective? (Jonathan Evans)
 5. Graph: *Most Harmful Drinks*
 6. *Fluoride* (MA Dental Society)
 7. *Information on fluoride* (Dr. Hunt)
 8. Study Reviews and summaries
 9. *Fourteen Oddball Reasons You're Not Dead Yet*
 10. *Oral Care and Toothbrushing Guidelines For Children* (American Dental Association)
 11. The Question of Water Fluoridation (Margaret Starkweather PhD)
 12. List of organizations/associations in support for Fluoride (Nancy Gilbert)
- *Town of Amherst Board of Health Regulations for Refuse Collection and Mandatory Recycling* with suggested modifications drafted by Marco Boscardin



AMHERST HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 70 BOLTWOOD WALK, AMHERST, MA 01002
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BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Sign In Sheet

May 15, 2014

**Lower Meeting Room
Bangs Community Center
7:00 p.m.**

NAME (Please Print Clearly) ADDRESS/AFFILIATION/TITLE

1. Ellie Kurth Amherst DPW
2. Amy Vickers Amherst resident
3. DAVID PIECH AMHERST RES.
4. Jonathan Evans Amherst Res
5. Roger Sonier Deerfield Res
6. Arsen Bogdanov Amherst resident, dental practitioner
7. John Tobiasson Amherst, MA resident.
8. ERIC CASTENSON Amherst MA Dentist
9. JAMES HUNT AMHERST MA DENTIST
10. Nancy Goff Amherst, MA
11. CEAG Goff Amherst, MA
12. _____