



**Town of Southborough
Board of Health
9 Cordaville Road, Lower Level
Southborough, MA 01772-1662**

Phone: (508) 481-3013

Minutes of the Southborough Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

May 24, 2022 – Board of Health – Hybrid Meeting – McAuliffe Meeting Room (Town House - 17 Common Street) & Virtual – 9:30 AM

Present:

Board Members Chelsea Malinowski, Nancy Sacco, Dr. Safdar Medina; Public Health Director, Dr. Heather Alker; Public Health Nurse, Taylor West; Administrative Assistant, Barbara Spiri

Also in Attendance: Resident, Deb DeMuria; Resident, Kevin Farrington, Resident, Brad West; Resident, Grant Farrington; Tech Environmental Sound Engineer, Marc Wallace; Tech Environmental, Patricia Rose; Resident, Timothe Litt

Opening:

The meeting of the Board of Health was called to order at 9:30 AM by Ms. Malinowski.

Topic: Public Comment

Discussion: No public comment was brought before the Board

Topic: Abutters of Ken's Warehouse – Sound Report

Discussion: Deb DeMuria and Kevin Farrington, residents of Flagg Road, opened the discussion about the noise coming from Ken's Warehouse and how it effects abutters to the property. A sound report was put together. VP Marc Wallace and Patricia Rose of Tech Environmental presented their findings.

Options to reduce the sound level: change operation hours of the warehouse, eliminate truck idling, provide electrification connections for refrigerated trucks, or strategically place sound barriers. Sound receivers were not placed at the homes of abutters but specific addresses as part of the model. Mr. Wallace suggested a 16-foot-tall/920-foot-long sound barrier be installed between the warehouse and the abutters at the western most edge of the parking lot. The wall will be close enough to the sound source so the noise should not go over the wall. It should be significant enough for close abutters. Brad West questioned the size of the wall they are proposing compared to what Ken's is proposing. Mr. Wallace stated the wall that Ken's is proposing will be in the middle of the parking lot which will reduce noise from the refrigerated trucks. (Ken's is proposing a 20-foot-high wall.) However, it will not reduce the sound coming from the other trucks driving or idling in the lot that are on the other side of the wall. Mr. West asked if they have run Ken's model through their system. Mr. Wallace said they both use the same model, but he has not reviewed their study yet. Mr. Farrington



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said according to the state law it is illegal for truck to idle for longer than 5 minutes when it is not crucial to their operations. He stated it is not only a noise issue but also an environmental issue. Mr. Farrington asked the Board of Health to look into this issue.

Topic: **Summer Intern**

Discussion: Dr. Alker has a candidate for the intern position for the months of July and August (8-10 hrs./wk.). There are many projects the intern can work on (noise regulations, chronic disease prevention, 5-year vegetation plan, etc.) but the Board agrees noise should be the top priority.

Topic: **Consideration of Community Needs Assessment**

Discussion: The prioritizing of health need going forward. The cost for a third-party vendor could be \$60,000 to \$150,000. Other towns (boroughs) may be interesting in participating and sharing the cost. Ms. Malinowski suggested Dr. Alker find out which ones are interested before moving forward.

Topic: **Opiate Settlements for Southborough**

Discussion: Dr. Alker told the Board four opiate manufacturers and distributors reached a multi-state settlement. Southborough will receive \$50,000 this year and \$20,000 - \$30,000 in future years. This money can be used for opiate prevention, education, treatment, and recovery. Plans for the money include the possible hiring of a prevention coordinator, training for Narcan, medication and sharps take backs.

Topic: **Town Continuity of Operations Plan (Coop)**

Discussion: Dr. Alker told the Board Southborough is in high risk zone for mosquitoes. The Central Massachusetts Mosquito Project will soon begin spraying. Ms. Malinowski asked for the information to be posted on the Town's website.

Topic: **Covid – Public Health Nurse Report**

Discussion: Ms. West reported the numbers have shown a small decrease in numbers. A third booster has been approved for children ages 5-11 years old. Southborough is working with Northborough on a clinic for this age group. Vaccinations for children under 5 years old has been sent to the FDA. We should know more mid-June.

Topic: **Meeting Schedule**

Tuesday, May 31, 2022 – Hybrid – 9:30 am

Tuesday, June 7, 2022 – Hybrid – 9:30 am

Tuesday, July 12, 2022 – Virtual – 9:30 am



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Topic: Public Comment

Discussion: Mr. Litt mentioned the draft of the Master Plan does not contain very much about public health. Ms. Malinowski said it would be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Ms. Malinowski made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Sacco seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 AM.

Respectively submitted by Barbara Spiri, Administrative Assistant and edited by Chelsea Malinowski.

Documents:
Abutter's Sound Report