

TOWN OF STURBRIDGE, MA
BOARD OF HEALTH
November 14, 2023

Meeting Called to Order: 2:00 PM

Quorum Check: Confirmed

Members Present: Linda Cocalis (LC), Dr. Louis Fazen (LF)

Members Absent: Richard Volpe

Others Present:

Kenneth B. Lacey, Jr. (KL), Health Agent

Laura Sherris (LS), Health Department Administrative Assistant

Nathalia Fernandes (NF), Gol Supermarket

2:00 PM – Meeting called to order.

2:02 PM – Review Minutes – Minutes from the September 12, 2023 and October 10, 2023 Board of Health (BOH) meetings are reviewed.

2:08 PM – LC motions to accept the September 12, 2023 and October 10, 2023 minutes as drafted; LF 2nd. AIF: LC, LF; unanimous.

2:09 PM – New Business – Office, Charlton Coalition for Public Health (CCPH) updates –

KL states that Regional Health Inspector Emily Quinn is currently working in Sturbridge two days a week, focusing primarily on housing and hotel inspections, and will be conducting upcoming pool inspections. KL states that Outreach Coordinator Mary Carpenter has been continuing to foster connections within the community and helping coordinate resources for Sturbridge residents. KL states that he attended the annual Massachusetts Health Officers Association (MHOA) conference in October.

2:27 PM – New Business – Update re: Emergency Assistance (EA) Shelter – KL states that there are not many updates regarding EA sheltering, as the program is run by the state and not at the local level. KL states that the new owner of LaQuinta Inn & Suites made it known that he plans to submit a bid to the state to serve as a shelter and transportation provider. KL states that the state reached out regarding site updates and lead poisoning and tuberculosis testing; the state was referred to the National Guard, as they are the organization coordinating the EA sheltering in town. LF inquires if the sheltered individuals have access to health care; KL states that transportation is still not available; LC states that the sheltered individuals are already receiving some state benefits, and while plans are unknown, it is plausible that they will be receiving healthcare benefits in the future.

2:30 PM – Hearing – application for local grease trap regulation variance – Gol

Supermarket – NF states that Gol Supermarket plans to limit food preparation at the premises to cold cut sandwiches; the business will be operating as a meat market and deli and will carry

some Brazilian specialty foods. NF states that there will be no meat grinding or butchering at the premises, and that everything arrives at the location prepackaged and sealed. LF inquires if the external grease trap is a state or local regulation; KL states it is a local regulation intended to protect the town sewer system and that it is an additional measure in addition to internal grease traps already found in food establishments.

2:40 PM – LC motions to grant a variance to the local external grease trap regulations to Gol Supermarket, located at 365 Main Street; LF 2nd. AIF: unanimous.

2:49 PM – New Business – FY25 budget information – KL provides the Board with information regarding requirements and timelines for the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) budget process. KL states that he plans to continue with prior practice, and prepare proposed FY25 BOH and Landfill budgets for the Board's review and approval. KL, LC, and LF discuss the pending proposal from EA Engineering regarding a potential Recycling Center study; LC suggests that the potential study funding would need to be a warrant article at the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) to request specific funding, as the potential project is not part of the standard Landfill budget; LC, LF, and KL agree that the proposal should be reviewed once received and put through as an article submission for ATM if deemed appropriate by the Board.

3:11 PM – Old Business – Landfill/Recycling Center Updates – KL states that he met with the Department of Public Works regarding compacting and grading at the landfill and improvements that need to be made. KL states that an access road needs to be built within the landfill for better operation and access; LC inquires if any special permission is needed to build the road; KL states that no special permission is needed as the road falls under standard operating procedure at the facility and is contained entirely within the confines of the landfill. LC and LF approve moving forward with the landfill road construction as soon as possible in order to avoid any delay the upcoming winter may cause. KL states that he will be meeting with Casella Waste Systems representatives at the Auburn Casella facility regarding material that could potentially be used as landfill cover material; the material will be reviewed by EA Engineering to ensure compliance with cover material requirements before moving forward with any agreement or planning. KL states that the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program is adjusting how they calculate their Recycling Dividend Program (RDP) grant award amounts and it may be worth looking into updating regulations and/or operations to better align with state initiatives in order to maximize awarded RDP grant funding.

3:33 PM – LF and LC discuss alternative parliamentary procedure for small groups. LC states that the town sets procedural standards for Boards.

3:40 PM – LC motions to adjourn the meeting; LF 2nd. AIF: LC, LF; unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Sherris
Health Department Administrative Assistant