

**Board of Health  
Meeting Minutes  
February 28, 2011**

Members Present:

Tom Kinzer, Co-Chair  
Bea Brunkhorst, Co-Chair  
Kevin Wormstead  
Lea Susan Ojamaa

Staff Present:

Mary Firestone, Recording Secretary

In attendance:

Heidi Porter, 6 Oakland Street, Salem, MA

Member Absent:

Mary Seymour

Action Items:

1. The Board will revisit the issue of athletic fields next year.

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 P.M. Dr. Brunkhorst chaired.

Minutes:

Members signed amended January meeting minutes; approval of amended February 14 minutes will be on the agenda for the March 14 minutes.

Board Issues:

Liaison reports:

Mr. Kinzer attended the meeting of the Synthetic Turf Committee. Since it was clear that the Board of Selectmen has decided not to put the synthetic turf issue on the warrant for the Town Meeting, acquisition of synthetic turf will not be take place this year. The Board of Health has never taken a position on the athletic fields issue but should revisit the issue next year. Provision should be made in the final plan for a misting tent.

Mr. Kinzer also attended a meeting of the Financial Planning and Coordinating Committee (FPCC). (1) At a meeting on March 15, FPCC will present the town budget for FY12. This is the first time that such a presentation has been made to give residents an opportunity to see the budget before the Town Meeting. (2) FinCom is considering how to put funds into a retirement trust fund. Bedford has been able to have a better employee health plan than most communities in the state.

Discussion of Comprehensive Plan:

Dr. Brunkhorst said that it would be good to come up with a list of options to present to the Planning board. Mr. Kinzer said that several items on the 2002 Comprehensive Plan should have health-related sections, but don't. Dr. Brunkhorst said that the main thing is to encourage small convenience centers throughout the town to encourage village-style walkability, to mold density, and to manage transportation demand. One way to influence these is with zoning laws. The high density areas, such as two developments on Middlesex Turnpike, often have no amenities such as playgrounds. Some things recommended in the 2002 Comprehensive Plan have been

done, e.g., the Great Road plan. Ms. Ojamaa said that overlay zoning has been set up --- the development hasn't happened yet but the zoning is ready.

Mr. Kinzer said that plans for some developments, for which the first floors were intended for businesses, e.g., Taylor Pond, have not worked out because of the economic climate and are now being converted to apartments.

Ms. Ojamaa said that items in comprehensive plans have not been explicit about health reasons; she wants to imbed health language in various items instead of having a health section that no one looks at. Mr. Wormstead said the playgrounds should be required in developments. Sidewalks should be linked, not come to an end at the edge of the developers' property. Ms. Ojamaa said that a *network* of sidewalks is needed. Mr. Wormstead said that an infrastructure fund may be needed to provide for linkage of sidewalks.

Ms. Ojamaa pointed out model language in some of the readings she has sent links to. Mr. Kinzer said that one main issue is to avoid losing what we're got --- paths and bridges that have been used for a long time are being signed as private to protect the property owners from liability. Dr. Brunkhorst asked about areas covered by the Transportation Committee; Ms. Ojamaa said that they cover multi-modal issues.

Mr. Wormstead said that employees of the firms on Wiggins Avenue mostly go to the Great Road for lunch. Perhaps mobile food wagons / vendors/ caterers could be encouraged to serve those diners near the workplace. Mr. Kinzer said that mobile food wagons often do not have the healthiest choices. Ms. Porter said that there are ways to encourage vendors to have healthy choices. Board members discussed ways to facilitate access to Stop'n'Shop plaza for Wiggins Avenue workers.

Ms. Ojamaa referred members to the Design for Health Checklist. Ms. Porter stressed the importance of accessibility of fresh foods, services, etc. Members discussed setting aside land for future recreational use. Walkability and connectivity are important issues.

Dr. Brunkhorst asked whether it was possible to limit the number of gas stations. Mr. Wormstead said that new underground tanks are of better quality and are better regulated than they used to be. Ms. Porter asked about dry cleaners; do they have their own plants in town or drop-off locations? Tobacco permits can be limited on the basis of population density. Ms. Porter mentioned that site-specific information on subsurface conditions would be useful. Mr. Kinzer suggested getting an opinion from Don Corey, a retired LSP (licensed site professional). Ms. Porter said that if something is listed in the comprehensive plan, it makes the town accountable for attention to that issue.

Mr. Kinzer listed three sets of people to be concerned about: people who live in town, people who work in town, and people who drive through and need to get through easily and quickly. Traffic speed and narrow width of roads are concerns. Mr. Wormstead said that it would be nice to have a few convenience stores; they would reduce the amount of traffic.

Ms. Ojamaa said that the Planning Board will have an inclusive process in preparing the new Comprehensive Plan. Dr. Brunkhorst said that the Planning Board's consultant should be someone with an interest in health.

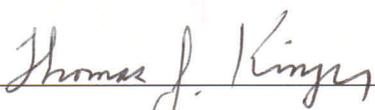
Mr. Kinzer said, where do we put local agriculture? There is a need to address the issues of community gardens and urban farming. Ms. Ojamaa asked, does the town want to address the livestock issue or let the Board of Health deal with it piecemeal.

Ms. Porter asked whether the Board is interested in applying for mini-grants for tobacco inspection. There was a consensus among members that such applications should go forward.

Mr. Wormstead said that he will arrange with Joe Knott to inspect the Skorupka property with regard to compliance with the animal permit which was issued a few months ago.

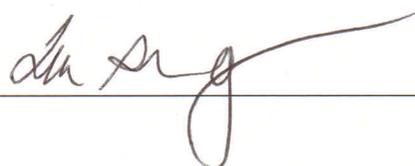
Ms. Ojamaa moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Kinzer seconded the motion. Vote count: 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

The next meeting of the Board will be held on March 14, 2011.

  
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**Links to documents utilized and/or made available at this meeting:**

[http://www.phpnet.org/healthy-planning/create\\_implementation\\_gp](http://www.phpnet.org/healthy-planning/create_implementation_gp)

<http://www.phpnet.org/healthy-planning/products/healthy-planning-guide>

<http://www.designforhealth.net/resources/checklists.html>

[http://www.designforhealth.net/pdfs/Information\\_Sheet/BCBS\\_ISHealthCompPlanning\\_082307.pdf](http://www.designforhealth.net/pdfs/Information_Sheet/BCBS_ISHealthCompPlanning_082307.pdf)