

**Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2011**

Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Heidi Porter, Director
Mary Firestone, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 P.M. Mr. Kinzer chaired.

Minutes:

Ms. Seymour moved that the minutes of the March 14 meeting be accepted as amended; Dr. Brunkhorst seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0 in favor

The February 28 minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting; Ms. Porter will re-send the corrected minutes.

Ms. Porter asked if the Board wants to continue the practice of signing the minutes. Board members said, Yes.

Nomination of Animal Inspectors:

Mr. Wormstead moved that in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 129, Section 15, the Bedford Board of Health nominate the following three Town Employees as Inspectors for Animals for the year ending April 30, 2012:

1. Mike Leskowski, Inspector Animals, Bedford Police Department;
2. Joseph Knott, Health Agent, Bedford Board of Health; and
3. Heidi Porter, Director of Public Health, Bedford Board of Health.

Ms. Seymour seconded the motion. Vote count: 5-0

Board Issues:

Liaison reports:

Dr. Brunkhorst and Ms. Porter met concerning current year recombinant DNA (rDNA) applications, Institutional Biosafety Committees (IBCs) and the schedule for inspections of Bedford companies working with rDNA; Dr. Brunkhorst will serve as the community representative on the IBC for all facilities with the exception of Millipore where Bedford resident Dr. Corinne Miller will serve as the community representative. Ms. Porter will issue permits to the companies and schedule the IBC meetings and facility inspections.

Ms. Ojamaa's committee will meet later this week. She will be out of town on Walk-to-School Day; all schools will participate in some degree.

Mr. Kinzer attended a meeting of the Community Partnership Committee. At the meeting, Madeleine Altman of Bedford Community Access Television (BCAT) spoke about their activities, including an upcoming program on veterans; BCAT may later record meetings of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Kinzer said that Dr. Maureen LeCroix, the school superintendent, reported that all seniors passed the MCAS test. She also reported that the school calendar will be changed beginning with the next school year. She said that she is planning to upgrade the school's technical capabilities; at some time in the future, all students from the ninth grade up will have iPad2 computers. Mr. Kinzer said that the

Financial Planning and Coordinating Committee (FPCC) will not meet again until September.

Other Board Issues:

Report on Action Items: Scheduled inspection of the Skorupka animals, in keeping with the permit issued to that family, was cancelled by Ms. Skorupka. Ms. Porter has asked Mr. Knott to follow up.

Staff Mileage Allowance: Ms. Porter said that a question has arisen about reimbursement to staff for in-state travel. A notice was received from Assistant Town Manager Jessica Porter that the amount of travel allowances has been reduced. Ms. Heidi Porter said that staff members feel that the present arrangement is working. Mr. Wormstead asked about the effect of the rise in gas prices; Ms. Porter said that she will cross that bridge when she comes to it; she will report back to the Board on how it goes. The Board directed Ms. Porter to have staff members keep track of their mileage and present the data to the Board at a later date. Dr. Brunkhorst moved that the benefit of a monthly mileage stipend of \$200 be extended to Heidi Porter, Director of Public Health. Ms. Seymour seconded the motion. Vote count: 5-0

Sub-division at 144 North Road: According to regulations, Board of Health comments must be included in consideration of plans for a new subdivision. Ms. Porter presented the plans to the Board. Owners of a residential lot, presently the location of one residence, have requested that the lot be divided to allow for one additional residence and they are asking for waivers from construction of sidewalks, curbing, and streetlights. The Board directed Ms. Porter to inquire whether any existing trails or other informal access will be affected; comments should mention concern for impact on public health if walkability is curtailed.

Staff reports to the Board: The nurses will appear before the Board in June especially to discuss Body Mass Index (BMI) results. Mr. Knott, the health agent, will attend the Board meeting in September. Ms. Jelloe will appear in October to discuss the ramp-up for the influenza season.

Bedford Community Access Television will be contacted to produce video clips on such health issues as mosquitoes and barbecue safety.

Agriculture: Ms. Porter and Mr. Kinzer attended a recent presentation on farming issues and described issues covered to the Board. An expert had given a presentation on best practices for manure storage. None of the presenters was able to answer regulatory questions. Ms. Porter suggested that a gathering be organized, possibly under the auspices of MEHA (Massachusetts Environmental Health Association), on agricultural regulations; Ms. Ojamaa agreed that it was a good idea.

Animal Permits: Ms. Porter has received two inquiries about keeping chickens. She sent letters including a copy of the regulations and directed the enquirers to Code Enforcement for permits to build coops.

Director's Report:

Ms. Porter presented a preliminary report on the BMI data collected on tenth grade students; she showed the Board the materials which will be sent soon to parents, including reports on each

student and informational materials. Ms. Porter reported that the data for each student will be kept confidential and only reported as total numbers for those students for whom data were collected.

Influenza vaccination: Ms. Porter has received word from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) that significantly fewer doses of vaccine will be provided to communities this year; DPH wants to focus on vaccination of youth under 18 years of age; Bedford only used vaccine for four people under 18 last year. Bedford will receive from DPH only half the number of adult doses used in the past. Ms. Porter has ordered 350 doses. Monies received in past years from Medicare for reimbursement of the cost of vaccines, \$9,000 in 2010, was put in the town's general fund, not in the board of Health account. Ms. Porter suggests requesting that the town set up a revolving fund for vaccine purchase in the future; the request must be approved at Town Meeting. Mr. Reed will provide funds for employee vaccinations. A family clinic will be scheduled for child vaccinations.

Arsenic and uranium in private drinking water wells: Bedford has received notice of the probability that arsenic and uranium in water from private wells exceeds drinking water standards. The depth of such wells often extends to bedrock which gives off radionucleotides; however, most drinking water in Bedford comes from town overburden wells which are not affected. Ms. Porter indicated that notices will be sent to the residents who have registered bedrock wells to inform them of the state's findings and relay that well testing may be advisable to determine current concentrations of arsenic and uranium.

Ms. Porter was invited to a pilot program training on food inspection with funding provided by MEHA. Lack of standardization of inspections is a concern. Ms. Porter requested and received permission from the Board to attend the training.

Tobacco inspections: Using funding provided by a grant, tobacco inspections have been arranged. The funding of \$600 covers the cost of two inspections at each of ten establishments; the first inspection is for signage, the second for compliance with requesting ID before selling to persons appearing under 29 years of age. Each inspection costs \$30. The inspector is from Watertown and the youth is from Lexington.

As a follow-up to a discussion from the March 14, 2011 meeting, Dr. Brunkhorst asked Ms. Porter how alcohol permits are issued in the town. Ms. Porter reported that the number of alcohol permits in a town is based on the town's population; although Bedford is awaiting the latest census figures, it appears that the number of permits is close to being at its maximum.

Mosquitoes: Mr. Kinzer recommended participation in the annual walks on mosquito breeding sites conducted by a professor at Harvard University's Concord Field Station. Mr. Kinzer said that participants should expect to wear hip waders. Ms. Porter said that helicopter application of Bti larvicide over the wetlands is planned.

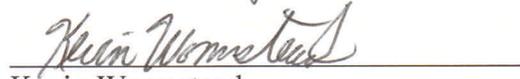
Mr. Wormstead moved to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Seymour seconded the motion. Vote count: 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 P.M.

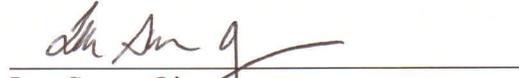
The next meetings of the Board will be held on May 9 and June 6, 2011.

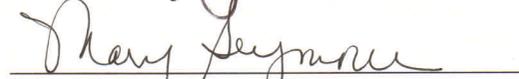
These minutes are approved by the Bedford Board of Health:


Bea Brunkhorst, Co-Chair


Tom Kinzer, Co-Chair


Kevin Wormstead


Lea Susan Ojamaa


Mary Seymour