

**Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
May 9, 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

Also attending:

Bill LeClerc, Co-Owner, Northside
Convenience, 44 North Road
Don Corey, 2 Page Road

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M. Dr. Brunkhorst chaired.

In consideration of two guests, Ms. Seymour moved to take agenda items out of order; Ms. Ojamaa seconded. Vote count: 5-0. The hearing on sale of tobacco to a minor and discussion of Bedford environmental issues will be followed by consideration of the minutes of the previous meeting.

Hearing – Sale of Tobacco to a Minor:

Ms. Porter explained the sale of tobacco to a minor occurred in the course of a compliance check on April 23rd, 2011; the work of an inspector and a trained minor were funded by a grant. The sale took place at Northside Convenience store. The store owner, Bill LeClerc, does not deny that the sale took place. He explained that the sale took place near the end of the employee's shift. Mr. LeClerc offered to pay a \$1,000 fine in lieu of suspension of his permit to sell tobacco products; the normal fine for a first offense is \$100. He also asked that, if the Board decided on a suspension, the period of suspension would be on a specific Wednesday through Tuesday, June 29 through July 5, in order to minimize inconvenience to his usual customer base, tradesmen (e.g., landscapers) who would be less likely to be working in the area at that time because of the long holiday weekend. Dr. Brunkhorst thanked him for his explanation. She said that the Board must be consistent in its enforcement; the by-law does not have allowance for a variance so the fine and suspension must be levied as usual. Ms. Ojamaa asked about the store's system for compliance. Mr. LeClerc answered that there is a procedure programmed into the register which requires that the employee enter information on a check of the buyer's age; however, the employee was able to bypass that procedure. Mr. LeClerc said that his business is not a habitual offender. Mr. Kinzer said that the Board has always been fairly strict but will consider Mr. LeClerc's request for the dates of the suspension. Ms. Ojamaa moved that the \$100 fine and 7 day tobacco sales permit suspension be upheld; the suspension shall commence on June 29 at store opening and end on July 5 at close of business. Ms. Seymour seconded the motion. Vote count: 5-0

Discussion of Bedford Environmental Issues:

Mr. Kinzer introduced Mr. Donald Corey, LSP (Licensed Site Professional), to the Board. Mr. Corey provided maps and text relating to environmental issues at Hanscom Field; these materials are listed in the addendum to these minutes. He explained that in the early 1980s the town opened a well field to provide water of drinkable quality. The wells operated for 2 or 3 years until contamination was detected, principally in the form of chlorinated solvents and petroleum

products. Many other towns, e.g., Burlington, which were affected by similar plumes of contamination, also lost wells. After the wells were closed, Bedford was short of water; it was necessary to obtain water from other towns and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). Bedford paid millions of dollars to the Town of Lexington for water that Lexington purchased from MWRA until Bedford established 3 connections to the MWRA supply line in Lexington.

Mr. Corey recounted the history of the well field and ownership of the properties involved. Contamination originated from the operations of the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Air Force at Hanscom. The problems were inherited by Massport (an independent public authority which develops, promotes and manages airports, the seaport and transportation infrastructure in the state) when it acquired much of the property in the area. The Navy was slow in reacting to the findings; management of the contamination was overseen by distant offices in Minnesota and Virginia. Ten years ago, the Navy installed interception wells to stabilize the plume. Mr. Corey referred the Board to a map of the general area and with contaminated areas designated. Dr. Brunkhorst asked about Chip-In Farms, a supplier of fresh food to town residents; Mr. Corey replied that the farm is using clean town water. Mr. Wormstead asked how long the Navy remediation program had been in effect; Mr. Corey said, since 2003, less than ten years.

Mr. Corey referred the Board to the Navy's 2010 Proposed Plan. He explained that contaminants heavier than water go into bedrock and are difficult to get out. Soil has been removed and thermal treatment has been taking place. The contaminant load has been reduced but is not down to drinking water standards. Land use controls are in place to prevent use of the water for drinking purposes.

Dr. Brunkhorst asked about Navy intentions to sell its Hanscom property. Mr. Corey said that other federal agencies have first priority, followed by state agencies, then quasi-state agencies, e.g., Massport, then possible industrial uses. Part of the Raytheon property has been re-zoned for residential development because it is tied in to town water.

The Air Force had many more problems than the Navy but had an excellent local team and was well into the remediation process before the Navy started. Six areas are on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Priority List; two areas are listed by the state environmental agency. Vacuum-enhanced pumping is used in some interceptor wells. Trichloroethylene (TCE), the primary contaminant, is breaking down, but slowly. TCE and its daughter products can volatilize and come up into the indoor air in buildings.

Some aviation fuels previously arrived by rail and jet fuels arrived by truck. Floating pools of jet fuel have been found on the water table in the Shawsheen River area, but it is believed that nothing has migrated into the Shawsheen River itself, which was partially enclosed in a ditch and in pipes as it crosses the Hanscom area. Mr. Corey indicated that the plume is pretty well contained. Fuel is classified as hazardous under state regulations but not under federal regulations. Mr. Kinzer and Mr. Corey discussed the alteration of the course of the Shawsheen River and the routes of floodwater.

When it was found that the Town wells were impacted by contamination, the Navy, the Air Force, and Raytheon denied responsibility but paid some of the cost of water bought at the high

retail rates from Lexington. Bedford is now paying the lower MWRA rates with no surcharge from Lexington.

Arsenic has been identified in groundwater water in limited areas across Hanscom. The arsenic may have originated from agricultural use as a component of pesticides.

When asked about the duration of the contamination, Mr. Corey said, “The Hartwell well fields will not be useable in my lifetime. Maybe in a hundred years.”

Ms. Porter asked why Bedford used funds to connect to the MWRA instead of building a treatment plant as was done in Burlington. Mr. Corey said that MWRA guaranteed a source at non-prohibitive rates; at that time, it was a better cost than that of a treatment plant. Mr. Wormstead commented on the ongoing cost of a treatment plant. Mr. Kinzer said that from the perspective of that time there was uncertainty about the capability of a treatment plant; they did not know what we know now. Mr. Corey said that the contaminant data showed some pretty scary numbers while the Quabbin/MWRA water was known to be safe.

The Board thanked Mr. Corey.

Meeting Minutes:

Ms. Seymour moved that the April 11 meeting minutes be accepted as amended. Ms. Ojamaa seconded the motion. Vote count: 5-0.

Ms. Ojamaa moved that the February 28 meeting minutes be accepted as amended. Ms. Seymour seconded the motion. Vote count: 5-0.

Board of Health Action Items – Old and New Business:

a) Updates on BOH liaison assignments.

(1) Dr. Brunkhorst said that she and Ms. Porter are trying to visit the facilities of all rDNA permittees. They have been unable to coordinate a visit to Millipore due to some missing information regarding the projects currently on-going; the situation is expected to be resolved in the near future. Ms. Porter will send letters to all permittees to ask them to inform the Board of any changes with each yearly renewal. This is a part of administrative procedures and does not require a change in the regulations.

(2) Mr. Wormstead reported that he and Mr. Knott visited the Skorupka property on May 6; Ms. Skorupka has still not completed the chicken tractor; the yard has been somewhat cleaned up. Mr. Wormstead said that he is not happy with the compost site. She still has two guinea hens and 5 chickens. The rabbits are kept in the bathroom. The property has not yet been visited under warm weather conditions. Ms. Wormstead is anxious to see whether the chicken tractor is effective in manure management. Ms. Porter said that she will send Ms. Skorupka a letter; she said that the keeping of numerous rabbits in the bathtub of the house is a concern. Ms. Skorupka plans to build a hutch outdoors. Mr. Wormstead said that he had advised her to build a relationship with her neighbors to prevent problems. Standing water was present in barrels. Ms. Skorupka’s son is involved in blacksmithing activities; metal pieces are lying around.

(3) Ms. Ojamaa said that she did not get to meetings because they interfere with her work schedule, but she will try to get to the Youth Task Force meeting.

(4) Ms. Porter and other Board members said that they will substitute for each other as needed to cover meeting. Ms. Porter wants to meet Jackie Surprise of the school Wellness Committee.

(5) Mr. Kinzer attended the Community Partnership meeting and Ms. Porter presented BMI (Body Mass Index) data and materials at the meeting. Several people on that committee will be leaving their positions. Replacements are expected. There has been a lot of turnover, e.g., the police chief and the head of Facilities.

(6) Mr. Wormstead will attend the Youth and Family Services Committee meeting; it only meets five times per year.

(7) Board members discussed the duties of various committees and task forces.

b) There were no action items.

Director's Report:

Ms. Porter said that the first hazardous waste collection event of the year was held; Bedford residents provided 7 half cars and 18 full cars of materials. Volunteers are needed for the next collection event on June 18.

A Simmons College nursing student will intern this summer with the community nurse, Judi Jelloe. A student from Northwestern University is also panning an internship with the BOH.

Ms. Porter worked with Fire Department Chief Grunes on applications for hazardous materials storage.

Ms. Porter also met with John Zupkis about mosquitoes; David Henley says that Bedford may not have access to its votes on the mosquito committee because Mr. Zupkis has been unable to attend meetings, but he may be more active in the future. The lack of spraying at Great Meadows is of concern. Mr. Kinzer said that Bedford owns the key breeding site for *Culiseta melanura* mosquitoes, the white cedar swamp; he raised the possibility of placing a monitoring station to help Mr. Henley with data collection which may help to get spraying. It may be useful to ask Mr. Henley to speak to the Board. Ms. Porter said that she asked Mr. Henley to conduct a mosquito tour and he has agreed.

Ms. Porter said that beach samples will be taken at Springs Book Park; because there is no "pool", the pool regulations do not apply. She will contact Mr. Warrington regarding the sampling and reporting of results to the Board of Health. Overflow from the park must be dechlorinated before it is released into the wetlands.

Ms. Porter announced that school nurse Kathy Donati is retiring; the position will be filled over the summer.

Ms. Porter attended Walk-to-School day; remarked on the lack of sidewalks.

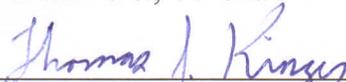
The BOH will apply for a Walk Boston grant to map walking routes and for a CHNA \$6,000 grant for website direct response on BMI issues. If awarded, the CHNA grant would allow for staffing to manage a website and both Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Mr. Kinzer asked about conversion of irrigation wells to drinking water wells; Ms. Porter checked on it and said that they are many steps to be taken before such a conversion. Mr. Kinzer stated that there is a Board policy to not allow conversions or any potable drinking water wells where there is access to town water.

Ms. Ojamaa moved to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Seymour seconded the motion. Vote count: 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 P.M.

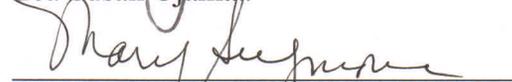
The next meeting of the Board will be held on June 6, 2011.


Bea Brunkhorst, Co-Chair


Tom Kinzer, Co-Chair


Kevin Wormstead


Lea Susan Ojamaa


Mary Seymour

Addendum: documents utilized and/or made available at this meeting:

Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant (NWIRP):

Figure 2-1, Site Area Map, Site 3 FS

General Depiction of Site Areas, site 3 FS

Proposed Plan Site 3 – Chlorinated Solvent Groundwater Plume, July 2010

Page 4, untitled [showing locations in and near the Antenna Range Building]

Proposed Plan, Site 4 – BTEX Plume, June 2009

Air Force:

Hanscom AFB IRP Overview, listing 8 of 22 sites which have on-going remedial actions

Environmental Quality Management, Inc., Hanscom AFB Site Plan

Shaw Environmental Inc., Locations of Collection Trenches and Recharge Basins

Metcalf & Eddy, Bedford Community Gardens, Bedrock Aquifer (RAP1-7R)

Metcalf & Eddy, New Well Locations, Operable Unit 3 --- Site 6 Site Plan

Metcalf & Eddy, Long-Term Monitoring Sample Locations Map, Site 21, May 2007

Metcalf & Eddy, Site Layout, Hanscom Field, June 2008

IT Corporation, OU-2/IRP Site 4 Plan, Hanscom Field