

**Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
July 23, 2012**

Members Present:

Tom Kinzer, Co-Chair
Bea Brunkhorst, Co-Chair,
Sarah Thompson
Kevin Wormstead
Anita Raj

Staff Present:

Heidi Porter, Director
Mary Firestone, Recording Secretary

Also Attending:

Richard Reed, Town Manager
Kim Siebert, Bedford Citizen Newsletter
(Not present during Executive Session)

Action Item:

1. Ms. Porter will research whether names of persons mentioned in minutes can be anonymized.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 P.M. Mr. Kinzer chaired.

Mr. Wormstead moved to enter executive session to discuss the upcoming contract negotiations with the school nurses. Dr. Brunkhorst seconded the motion. Mr. Kinzer voted, Aye; Dr. Brunkhorst voted, Aye; Ms. Thompson voted, Aye; Mr. Wormstead voted, Aye; Ms. Raj voted, Aye. Vote count: 5-0
The Executive Session opened at 7:13 P.M. The Board returned from Executive Session to Open Meeting at 7:40 pm.

Minutes:

Ms. Thompson moved to table review of the minutes of the June 4, 2012, meeting until the next meeting. Ms. Kinzer seconded the motion. Vote count: 4-0-1

Dr. Brunkhorst moved to accept the minutes of the June 11, 2012, Executive Session as amended. Mr. Wormstead seconded the motion. Vote count: 4-0-1

Review of New and Revised Policies:

Ms. Porter said that she was looking for a Board vote of confidence on 3 policies:

Home Sharps: The summer intern Mary Kalmanovitch prepared this policy. Medical sharps are no longer accepted for disposal in residents' home trash. Bedford will sponsor a sharps disposal event twice a year. Ms. Porter supplied the Board with copies of the draft policy. She said that she is negotiating with the vendor to attempt to eliminate the requirement for special sharps containers. Currently the containers are supplied to residents at cost. The next sharps disposal event will be held on the last Saturday in September; on the same day, the police department will accept prescription medications for disposal. The home sharps collection is paid for out of the hazardous waste line item in the budget. Ms. Raj moved to accept the policy; Mr. Wormstead seconded the motion. Vote count: 5-0

Petitions for Plumbing Variances: Such petitions must be submitted by the Board of Health to the state Plumbing Board on behalf of Bedford property owners/applicants. Ms. Porter distributed copies of the policy. Ms. Thompson moved to accept the policy. Dr. Brunkhorst seconded the motion. Vote count: 5-0

Wells for Geothermal Heating Systems: Ms. Porter distributed copies of the Draft Policy on Installation of Wells for use in Closed-Loop Geothermal Heating Systems. The policy includes a change in the fee and a requirement for public notice. Mr. Wormstead moved to accept the policy; Ms. Raj seconded the motion. Vote count: 5-0

Request for Petition to the State Plumbing Board for Variance: Ms. Porter provided a draft of a petition to be submitted on behalf of Toxikon at 25 Wiggins Avenue. Toxikon requested a plumbing variance, proposing a steeper slope for the drainage system in their animal lab. Ms. Porter reported that the Plumbing Inspector had no issue with the proposal. Dr. Brunkhorst moved to accept the variance request as amended; Ms. Thompson seconded the motion. Vote count: 4-0-1 (Mr. Wormstead abstained)

Board of Health Action Items --- Old and New Business:

Update on BOH liaison Assignments:

Dr. Brunkhorst said that a meeting with the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) at Life Technologies had been postponed due to illness but was rescheduled to August 10, 2012.

Mr. Kinzer said that the nothing has yet been posted on the revision of the town's comprehensive plan; he said that he will keep the Board up to date on developments.

Mr. Wormstead said that the Youth and Family Services Committee will not meet until September.

Mr. Kinzer said the Bedford Community Partnership and Fiscal Planning and Coordination Committee have not met over the summer so there are no updates.

Dr. Brunkhorst proposed to establish a task force on permits for work by Bedford firms with recombinant DNA (rDNA). She asked that Mr. Wormstead participate with her and with Ms. Porter to review the current policies and regulations and propose revisions; he agreed. Work on viruses may be added to the regulations. The task force will review the regulations used in Cambridge.

Ms. Porter said that some of the Board regulations should be reviewed and/or rewritten, and the Board might consider initiating regulations, for instance, on body work (for everything except massage therapy). Ms. Porter and the Board will review and update the regulations in the following order: hazardous materials, rDNA, the keeping of animals, and body work (licensed establishments and licensed practitioners). There are only seven massage therapy inspectors in the state. HazMat and rDNA regulation drafts will presented over the next couple of months.

Synthetic Turf: The Outdoor Recreation Area Study Committee has requested information on potential health and safety issues connected with synthetic turf. Dr. Brunkhorst told Ms. Porter about information gathered by the Board before she was hired as Health Director. Mr. Kinzer said that they have not heard of anything ghastly happening; the only concern is that synthetic turf fields get hot and require misting tents for players' relief. Ms. Porter said that she plans to reach out to the turf field consultants. Mr. Kinzer pointed out that the greatest threat of MRSA seems to be from the locker room and from equipment such as tackling dummies, not from the turf. Ms. Thompson asked whether kids are getting hurt on the new turf fields.

Mr. Kinzer said that they are getting hurt on the current natural turf fields because of their poor condition. Ms. Porter said that she will write a draft report for signatures by the Board. Mr. Wormstead said that the state Community Preservation Act has been changed to allow renovation of existing playing fields.

Director's Report:

Ms. Porter said that there have been 16 applicants for the community nurse position; she has had second interviews with three of the applicants who are very good and will probably be making an offer over the next week or so.

There will be a hazardous waste collection day on Saturday; she thinks that such sessions will be shorter than previous events.

There has been aerial spraying for mosquitoes in Southern Massachusetts due to the threat of Eastern Equine Encephalitis. Aerial spraying is expected to remain in Southern Massachusetts.

Since the retirement of Judi Jeloe as community nurse, Ms. Porter has been doing disease surveillance; she is getting Lyme disease reports and is distributing tick reminders.

In the recent hoarding case, a request for psychological counseling was received, and clinical services were provided through Youth and Family Services. Ms. Porter will visit the site on Wednesday, July 25.

Grant proposals are going well. Data collection on Healthy Bedford will end in September.

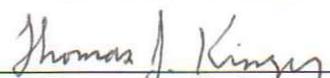
Litigation between the tenant and the landlord at 62 Carlisle Road was initiated and there may be a settlement. Ms. Porter was subpoenaed for the Board of Health files on the recent septic case at this residence.

Influenza vaccine doses were bought using revolving account funds in addition to doses provided by the state.

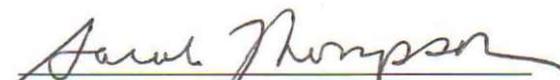
Ms. Thompson moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Wormstead seconded the motion. Vote count: 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 P.M.

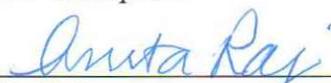
The next meeting of the Board will take place on September 10, 2012.


Bea Brunkhorst, Co-Chair


Tom Kinzer, Co-Chair


Kevin Wormstead


Sarah Thompson


Anita Raj