

**Board of Health  
Meeting Minutes  
May 28, 2013**

Members Present:

Bea Brunkhorst, Co-Chair  
Tom Kinzer, Co-Chair  
Kevin Wormstead

Staff Present:

Heidi Porter, Director  
Patty Moran, Community Nurse  
Mary Firestone, Recording Secretary

Member Absent:

Anita Raj  
Sarah Thompson

Also Attending:

Sam Lipson, Director of Environmental Health,  
City of Cambridge  
Kim Siebert McPhail for The Bedford Citizen  
Paul Gregory, 305 Davis Road, Bedford

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M. Mr. Kinzer chaired.

Minutes:

Mr. Wormstead moved to accept the minutes of the May 6, 2013, Board of Health meeting, as amended. Dr. Brunkhorst seconded the motion. Vote count: 3-0-2

Bedford Biosafety Regulation Review:

Ms. Porter said that she had received a question whether the new regulations section on assessment of fees would apply to present permittees. Mr. Kinzer asked at what point the new regulations would apply to those current permittees. Ms. Porter said that the regulations state “upon initial application”. The permits are renewed every year; renewals are not re-applications. She said that there are check boxes on the application to indicate new or renewal, rDNA existing or new, other biological agents.

Mr. Lipson said that when changes were made in Cambridge they became applicable to all permittees, as of a specific date, before the lapse of existing permits, a reasonable time after the promulgation of the new regulations. Ms. Porter said that an effective date is given at the end of the regulation. Mr. Lipson said that there is no immediate need for delay of implementation of the new regulations. Mr. Kinzer mentioned that the scope of the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) will be greater when the new regulations take effect.

Mr. Lipson said that there is no differentiation in the fees for regulatory work under the regulation. Dr. Brunkhorst said that there have been occasions when the assessment fees are waived for very small start-ups. Mr. Lipson asked whether Bedford has a procedures guidance document aside from the regulation document; he finds it helpful. Ms. Porter said that she will amend the current document to reflect changes in the regulation; she said that Section 3 of the regulation now requires permittees to complete a detailed table of organisms to be used. Ms. Porter said that Bedford regulations have no authority on federal installations, e.g., the Veterans Administration Hospital, but she will send them a copy for their information. Some comments were made about details, e.g., punctuation and numbering.

There was a discussion about how current or future regulations relate to infections which may or may not have been caused by exposure to regulated biological agents at permittee facilities. In such a case, DNA testing can be used to determine whether the infection was lab- or community-acquired. Such an infection may be reportable by town, state, or federal regulations. (No such infections have been reported at Bedford biotechnology sites.)

The permittee may request that a confidentiality agreement be signed by the community IBC member if it is necessary to discuss proprietary information. The Board agreed that the regulations already cover that aspect.

A vote on the regulation will be postponed until the full Board is in attendance; the effective date of the regulation will be extended. Discussion of the regulation was closed at 8:50 P.M.

Discussion of Sanitary code Violations at 305 Davis Road:

Ms. Porter said that staff has been working with Mr. Gregory for about a year to bring the residence into compliance. Inspections have been held approximately monthly and resources to assist Mr. Gregory with correction of violations have been provided. Some areas have improved as of the April 2013 inspection. Ms. Moran summarized the recent inspection and showed photographs. At present the largest concern is the basement. It is proposed that that area be brought down to Level 3 on the clutter scale. The Board staff is happy with most of the work done but stressed that mitigated conditions must be maintained. No one is currently sleeping in the bedrooms which are used for storage. Mr. Gregory said that the condition of the house is not according to the way he was raised; the contents were the property of his deceased father. Mr. Gregory says that he intends to clear out the house and does not intend to disrespect the laws of this town. He said that all containers in the house must be opened and appropriate materials sent to members of the family. He is preparing the home for sale; the family is in agreement. Three buyers are interested; two of them may tear the house down; the other regards it as a fixer-upper. In the meantime, he continues to live in the residence. He has help and progress has been made, e.g., the bathroom. The BOH has given him a deadline of July 31 but staff visits will take place before that time. Court action has been postponed. He said that correction of violations had intended to be done sooner; he is not employed and work on the house is all he is doing. It was pointed out that a house overfilled with boxes, papers and personal belongings presents a potential fire hazard to the resident, neighbors, and emergency responders. Board staff reminded him not to bring any further items into the house --- not even those intended for his planned sale, not even gifts from neighbors. Ms. Porter said that the case needs to be closed and must meet minimum standards. Mr. Gregory said that he intends to comply.

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

*Liaison Assignments:*

Mr. Wormstead reported on the meeting of the Youth and Family Services Committee, where discussions included the recent presentation by consultant Mark Fenton, Body Mass Index data, and the new school security systems. Ms. Porter said that she will put the Fenton slides on the website.

Mr. Kinzer said he received a letter from the Town Manager's office asking him if he would continue to represent the Board on the Financial Planning and Coordinating Committee; Mr. Kinzer said that he was willing to do so; the Board nominated him to the post.

Dr. Brunkhorst apologized for not finishing her promised article for the Bedford Citizen on the new biosafety regulations; she said that she will circulate her draft to other Board members. Mr. Wormstead suggested that the article would also be a good item for the Minuteman to provide a clear picture of the intent and content of the regulation.

Director's Report:

Ms. Porter reviewed her recent activities, including her liaison with Pakistani government visitors. She also met with the school nurses who are completing records to close out the school year. A procedure is being considered for getting the data entered electronically; an iPad is now available as a pilot in the high school. The nurses mentioned that they were happy with the recent dialogue at the May 6 Board meeting. Ms. Porter is working on getting mental health training into the schools in the Fall.

Ms. Porter submitted an application for a \$500 grant to put hoarding resources together, e.g., legal, labor, dumpsters, etc. A grant of \$5,000 from the CHNA was applied for and if issued will be used for public safety training on hoarding in partnership with Burlington.

Ms. Porter said that the BOH will have no role in regulation of medical marijuana. Since marijuana is not a medication, it will not be provided by the school nurses.

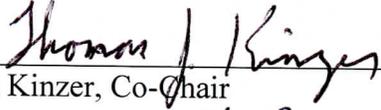
The next meetings of the Board will take place on July 22, September 9, and October 7, 2013.

Mr. Wormstead moved to adjourn the meeting; Dr. Brunkhorst seconded the motion. Vote count: 3-0-2. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 P.M.



Bea Brunkhorst, Co-Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah Thompson



Tom Kinzer, Co-Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anita Raj



Kevin Wormstead