

**Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2015**

Members Present:

Tom Kinzer, Co-Chair
Bea Brunkhorst, Co-Chair
Sarah Thompson
Caroline Donnelly

Staff Present:

Heidi Porter, Director

Also Attending:

Ann Keissling, representing The Bedford Citizen
and Bedford Stem Cell Research Foundation

Member Absent:

Anita Raj

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 P.M. Mr. Kinzer chaired.

BOH Meeting Minutes:

Ms. Thompson moved to accept the minutes of the April 6, 2015 meeting as amended; Ms. Donnelly seconded. Vote: 4-0.

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

Dr. Brunkhorst reported that she attended an Institutional Biosafety Committee meeting at Joule Power, located at 18 Crosby Drive, with Health Agent Faye Andrews. Dr. Brunkhorst explained that they generate fuel by adding different genes to photosynthetic bacteria and algae. Most of their operation is conducted under Biosafety Level 1 (BSL1) but they do maintain a BSL2 laboratory to have the ability to test for potential pathogens in their equipment.

Director's Report:

Ms. Porter provided an update on her Boston Marathon experience and thanked the Board for their support.

Ms. Porter reported that two plans for the Minuteman Bikeway Extension were heard by the Selectmen. This extension will connect the Minuteman Bikeway with a current terminus at Depot Park to the Reformatory Branch that leads to Concord. One plan was based on the "Complete Streets" concept where streets accommodate bicycles, pedestrians and automobiles in both directions. This plan calls for two six-foot wide sidewalks with four-foot shoulders on each side. The second plan calls for a shared use, ten-foot wide path for bicycle traffic in both directions and a four-foot wide sidewalk for pedestrians. This second plan requires a land taking. There was no vote taken to approve either plan. Some parties in town, interested in this topic, had asked for the Board of Health to write a letter of opinion to the Selectmen. The Board discussed this action and decided that since their stance on promotion of health and wellness is known and since the paths promote that tenet, a letter was not warranted.

Ms. Porter reported that all outstanding hoarding cases have now been closed. The grants acquired over the past several years to support hoarding intervention and the work of the Hoarding Task Force, have contributed to this success. The Task Force will continue to meet regularly and discuss potential or known cases. The Task Force is hosting “Understanding Hoarding,” a community education event to help residents understand just what hoarding is and is not on Sunday, May 17th, 2015, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, at Bedford Public Library, First Floor Meeting Room. The event will consist of a screening of the movie “Stuffed” and a facilitated discussion on hoarding disorder and possible interventions.

The Tick Testing Grant, where up to 100 ticks submitted by Bedford residents were tested for pathogens that cause tick borne illness, is coming to an end in June. The Board of Health will continue with outreach and promoting tick checks, use of repellents and residents can landscape their yards to make them unfriendly to ticks. We plan to distribute information at Springs Brook Park, through the media and at other community events this summer.

Ms. Porter reported that contract negotiations for the School Nurses Professional Unit have started. Given that discussions on moving the school nurses to the schools are ongoing but oversight of the school nurses may be with the School Department next fiscal year, Superintendent Jon Sills has been sitting in on the negotiations with Rick Reed, Ms. Porter, the school nurses and their union representative from the Massachusetts Nurses Association. The School Committee was planning to meet to discuss this potential transition.

Ms. Porter was appointed by the Selectmen to represent Bedford on the Massport Authority Community Advisory Committee. This legislatively required committee is newly formed, needs bylaws and governance, a structure for expenditure of \$250,000 in allocated funds and a more defined purpose and mission statement. The CAC will evaluate Massport activities and impacts to surrounding communities from a health, environmental and nuisance perspective.

Ms. Porter, upon receiving a brochure from Bedford Stem Cell Research Foundation, reached out to them to determine what type of laboratory research work they do. Ann Kiessling from the Foundation, contacted Ms. Porter to relate that they are primarily engage in biological analytical services (semen testing laboratory) in support of clinical services, a function that is exempt from permit requirements. Dr. Kiessling was present at the meeting to further elaborate on the work of her Foundation. She related that they are not currently engaged in human cell culture but understands that if they were to engage in that work a Biosafety Permit would be required. She indicated that they have Massachusetts Department of Public Health and Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) licenses for their activities and also undergo regular Food and Drug Administration inspections. She also indicated that they do not have an animal facility but do purchase mice, as needed for experimentation, from a company in Haverhill. The Board also had a discussion of whether a hazardous materials permit would be required. Dr. Kiessling said small quantities of materials are used on-site, the most hazardous of which is bleach. Dr. Kiessling will forward a summary of the Foundation’s activities and a list of chemicals used to Ms. Porter for review and she will consult with Sam Lipson, our biosafety consultant before making a final determination on whether a Biosafety Permit is required for this facility.

Ms. Donnelly moved to adjourn the meeting; Dr. Brunkhorst seconded. Vote count: 4-0.

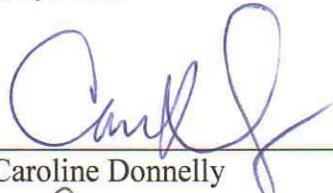
The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 P.M.

The next meeting of the Board will take place on June 1, 2015.

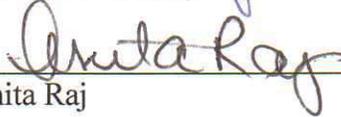
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