

**Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
September 10, 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:

Kim Siebert McPhail, Bedford Citizen Newsletter
Nancy Asbedian, 16 Lido Lane

Action Item:

1. Ms. Porter will acquire the article on the issue of injuries from artificial turf fields.
2. Ms. Porter will follow up on an inquiry to Wellesly about their experience with a TPE turf field.
3. Patty Moran, the community nurse, will meet with the Board at a future meeting.
4. Ms. Porter will contact Jackie Supprise to get Ms. Raj on the list of committee members.
5. Ms. Porter said that she will inquire about committee membership for Ms. Thompson, possibly the Safe Routes to School committee.
6. A sub-committee of Board members will review regulations for rDNA projects in Bedford and report back to the full Board in November.

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 P.M. Dr. Brunkhorst chaired.

Minutes:

Ms. Kinzer moved to accept the minutes of the June 4, 2012 Board of Health regular meeting as amended. Ms. Raj seconded the motion. Vote count: 5-0

Ms. Thompson moved to accept the minutes of the July 23, 2012 Board of Health regular meeting as amended. Mr. Kinzer seconded the motion. Vote count: 5-0

Review of Letter to Outdoor Recreation Study Committee re: Turf Field:

The Board reviewed the letter drafted by Ms. Porter. Dr. Brunkhorst asked about runoff; Ms. Porter said that the artificial turf is pervious, so rain water is able to infiltrate. Members expressed concern about the need for different footwear from that used on natural grass. Ms. Thompson suggested looking further at an article on the footwear issue as the Board may be asked to comment at the Special Town Meeting. Ms. Porter will acquire the article. She said that the data presented in the article was from the experience of college and professional athletes whose supporting organizations have funding to acquire the data. Ms. Porter will follow up on an inquiry to Wellesley about their experience with a thermoplastic elastomer (TPE) turf field. Mr. Kinzer said, "The bottom line is that you do not see casualties; it is a potent argument." Ms. Porter said that she is not seeing alerts from the state health and education departments on the turf as she did with the concussion issue. Ms. Raj moved to accept the letter with the proposed edits. Mr. Wormstead seconded the motion. Vote count: 5-0

In State Travel Allowance:

Ms. Porter indicated that the Health Inspector, Director and Community Health Nurse have traditionally received a monthly travel stipend to cover the use of their personal vehicles in the execution of their BOH duties. Ms. Porter asked the Board to consider extending the stipend benefit to the new Community Health Nurse. The current stipend for the Public Health Nurse is \$84.00 per month and is accommodated in the current FY13 Budget. Mr. Wormstead moved that the benefit of a mileage stipend of \$84.00 per month be extended to Patty Moran, Community Health Nurse; Mr.

Kinzer seconded the motion. Vote count: 5-0. Ms. Moran will meet with the Board at a future meeting.

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

Update on BOH liaison Assignments:

Mr. Kinzer, who is the Board liaison to the Restoration Advisory Board, the Financial Planning and Coordinating Committee, and the Comprehensive Plan Committee, said that he will attend the upcoming first meetings of those committees.

Dr. Brunkhorst said that she and Ms. Porter visited Life Technologies and found everything in order. Most projects there are at a low level and are well organized. She praised the placement of good posters on the door of each laboratory showing what protective equipment should be worn in that room. Dr. Brunkhorst and Ms. Porter were impressed with the company's own risk assessment process; they are getting good ideas from each safety committee meeting they attend.

Ms. Raj said that the Wellness committee has not yet met; Ms. Porter will contact Jackie Suprise to add Ms. Raj to their meeting list.

Ms. Thompson asked whether there is any committee that needs Board of Health representation. Ms. Porter said that she will inquire but suggested the Safe Routes to School committee.

Mr. Wormstead said that the Youth and Family Services Committee will meet on September 13, 2012. Mr. Wormstead noted that the town Veterans' Agent has died; Ms. Porter said that the agents from Burlington and Lexington are filling in.

Dr. Brunkhorst said that it is time to get to work on regulations for projects on rDNA. She asked Mr. Wormstead to join with herself and Ms. Porter as a sub-committee. He agreed. They will meet twice and then report back to the Board in November. They will review the Cambridge rDNA regulations as those and the regulations on laboratory animals are very robust. Dr. Brunkhorst noted the excellent biosafety procedures of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation here in Bedford. Mr. Kinzer asked Ms. Thompson and Ms. Raj had any background in rDNA issues; they both said they did not.

Mr. Wormstead inquired about hazardous waste regulations. Ms. Porter said that an intern will be working with her on revisions to that regulation.

Director's Report:

Ms. Porter met with the Bedford Community Partnership committee and introduced the new community nurse, Parry Moran.

At that meeting Jon Sills, Bedford Superintendent of Schools reported that just under 2,500 students are enrolled in Bedford schools this year, including 45 homeless students. 400 new iPads were acquired and distributed to freshmen for the second year of the program. Bedford High School was named by Boston Magazine as one of the top ten high schools in the state.

A flu clinic will be scheduled for the Plaza Hotel, where numerous families-in-transition are housed under a state contract. Dr. Brunkhorst asked whether the Youth and Family Services department is involved, e.g., for mental health issues. Hotels in Bedford are inspected by the Board of Health staff. Mosquitoes carrying the West Nile virus were found in a two traps in Bedford. The state has set minimum mosquito borne illness risk level as moderate across the state. The population of mosquitoes is high in West Bedford, so spraying is appropriate and last occurred on September 5th. The incidence

of Eastern Equine Encephalitis is elevated in Franklin and Worcester counties. Permission to place traps in the Great Meadows National wildlife Reserve has not yet been obtained; access will probably not be obtained until there is a serious human illness or death in the area. Mr. Kinzer reminded Ms. Porter that scientist David Henley had agreed to lead a tour to places where the mosquitoes overwinter. Ms. Porter said that she will bring this up with Mr. Henley this winter; he has been very responsive to Bedford concerns.

Ms. Porter said that the community transformation grant is nearing its end. The Bedford public was surveyed. There was a focus on a vulnerable sub-population and on the availability of healthy food. Dr. Brunkhorst asked whether Carla Olsen would be able to report to the Board on the project; Ms. Porter said, "Yes."

Ms. Porter said that 620 influenza vaccine doses were purchased using the revolving fund, including those for high dose inoculations. The town also purchased 250 doses for employees. The AEDs were inspected and three were replaced. Fire fighters were trained in the use of AEDs; some others in the schools and town buildings may also be trained. Dr. Brunkhorst noted that CPR training includes AEDs.

On Bedford Day, Emerson Hospital will provide blood draws for thyroid, prostate and cholesterol screenings. The Board will provide blood pressure screening and outreach regarding mosquito bit prevention and medical sharps.

On September 29, sharps will be collected by the BOH and drug take-back will be conducted by the Police Department. The police take custody of the drugs, attaching no patient names, and take them to the incinerator the same day.

Patty Moran will be working on the Lyme disease issue; there may be an expert presentation as well as outreach to the trails committee. A public forum sponsored by the Board of Health has been suggested.

There has been a marked improvement in one of the hoarding cases; the Youth and Family Services department helped. A task force will meet to discuss issues and experience.

The new school nurse contract for 3 years has been finalized and will soon be signed.

Ms. McPhail asked for a copy of Ms. Porter's goals for the year and for a copy of the amended artificial turf letter. Ms. Porter will also email the schedule for the flu vaccine clinics to her.

Mr. Wormstead moved to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Raj seconded the motion. Vote count: 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Future meetings of the Board will take place on October 1, November 5, and December 3, 2012 and on January 7, 2013.


Bea Brunkhorst, Co-Chair


Sarah Thompson

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Anita Raj

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