

**Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
June 4, 2018**

Members Present:

Anita Raj, Chair
Mary Seymour, Vice Chair
Bea Brunkhorst
Ann Kiessling, *tardy*
Sarah Thompson, *tardy*

Staff Present:

Heidi Porter, Director of Public Health
Margaret Root, Recording Secretary
Katharine Dagle, Health Agent

Others Present, with indicated affiliation:

Karen Dunn, *Finance Committee*
Jacky Xie, *Blue Fuji*
Lin Y Xu, *Blue Fuji*
Ed Micu, *Food Consultant*
Kebin Chen, *Blue Fuji*
Ji Xing Lin, *Blue Fuji*
Sue Xie, *Blue Fuji*
Jack Morris, *Blue Fuji*
Paris Marsh, *Board of Health Intern*

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM. Ms. Seymour chaired.

BOH Meeting Minutes

Ms. Raj moved to accept the minutes as amended from the May 7, 2018 meeting; Dr. Brunkhorst seconded the motion. The vote was 3-0-0. Later in the meeting, when all members were in attendance, the vote was taken again. Ms. Raj moved to accept the minutes as amended from the May 7, 2018 meeting; Dr. Brunkhorst seconded the motion. The revote was 5-0-0.

Blue Fuji, 200 Great Road

Ms. Dagle gave an update on Blue Fuji since the last BOH meeting. The consultant, Mr. Micu, has performed eight audits over the last month, resulting in one critical violation. This violation is in regards to the person-in-charge not being a Certified Food Protection Manager. The previously observed violations have been corrected by modifying procedures and there have been no ongoing repeat violations. The consultant thinks at this point, Blue Fuji needs to continue to work on maintaining their current level of operation.

Ms. Dagle and Ms. Porter performed an inspection on June 1, 2018 in preparation for this evening's meeting and to see Blue Fuji's progress. There were some non-critical violations observed, but they were quickly corrected onsite. Mr. Chen showed active managerial control by correcting the non-critical violations and providing explanations to the staff. A general improvement in cleanliness was noted, especially in the kitchen area, which has been a problem area in the past. Employees were also observed using gloves properly and were able to demonstrate their knowledge with regards to testing sanitizer concentration. Ms. Dagle and Ms. Porter were shown paperwork showing the pest control measures completed and that there was no pest activity. Mr. Lin took the Servsafe test and is now certified. Mr. Chen will be taking the test soon, which would resolve the one identified critical violation.

Mr. Micu reported that Blue Fuji had a good month and reiterated that he will be giving Mr. Chen his certification test later this week. There will also be a course at the restaurant to train staff on what to do should someone choke. The staff is using opening/closing procedures, as well as a weekly checklist. The restaurant has improved in cleanliness. The filters for the hood system are being cleaned weekly and shelving was installed, which cleared workspace for use and cleared off the floors. The outside areas are also cleaner.

Dr. Kiessling asked if the inspections/audits were unannounced. Ms. Porter said they were unannounced. Mr. Micu added the staff knew when he was coming in to train, but the audits were unannounced. He also had an associate come into the restaurant to have lunch and write a report.

Ms. Porter commented that she was pleased with the progress. The repeat violations have been resolved, and there has been a shift in the overall management of the restaurant. The staff is working with the managers, and she noticed the staff was more responsive and answering questions. She also noticed a smooth flow in the kitchen.

Ms. Seymour asked about the future plans for the restaurant to sustain this level of compliance. Mr. Micu replied that everyone is taking the situation seriously. The managers are working together, and procedures are in place for facilitation to keep the restaurant in good standing.

Dr. Brunkhorst asked about the persons-in-charge. Ms. Dagle replied that currently the restaurant has three: Mr. Chen, Mr. Lin, and Ms. Xie. Ms. Dagle reiterated that the BOH wants Blue Fuji to stick with these three persons-in-charge. Ms. Porter asked Blue Fuji to notify the BOH if there is a change in personal, as well as when everyone is properly certified.

Dr. Brunkhorst asked about the future inspection schedule. Ms. Dagle replied that Blue Fuji would go back onto the regular inspection schedule of three inspections per year. The inspection performed last month almost lined up with the regular inspection schedule and Blue Fuji will receive two more inspections this year.

Ms. Porter commented that the food temperatures were good. She noted that the staff took the inspection and audit reports and made improvements based upon the recommendations. She provided an example of food placement to make sure foods were properly separated and placed while being prepared to avoid cross contamination.

Ms. Lin, one of the owners, said she thinks part of the situation was the result of a communication problem.

Dr. Brunkhorst made the motion: "I move that the Order to Correct issued at the completion of the November 13, 2017 Board of Health hearing, as amended, be deemed complete, contingent upon Mr. Chen passing the Food Manager Certification Course and provision of the certificate to the Board of Health within 30 days." Ms. Thompson seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0-0.

Ms. Raj asked Mr. Morris what his involvement would be with Blue Fuji. He replied that he knew Ms. Lin and Mr. Chen previously from a restaurant in Amesbury and will be supporting their efforts.

Dr. Kiessling asked if Ms. Porter had spoken to the previous consultant. Ms. Porter replied that the agreement between the previous consultant and Blue Fuji keeps the consultant from discussing the situation for 30 days, which will end soon.

Dr. Kiessling asked if the BOH gives out a list of consultants. Ms. Raj said the State has a list of approved food safety consultants. Ms. Porter added the BOH has smaller lists sorted by native languages.

Ms. Porter commented that Mr. Morris had requested and received copies of all the files on Blue Fuji, as they are public record. Mr. Morris is the Health Director from Amesbury. While he is not on the approved food consultant list, he can do inspections. Ms. Porter was glad to hear Blue Fuji has Mr. Morris as an information source.

Dr. Kiessling asked if Ms. Porter was comfortable not going back to Blue Fuji for 2 or 3 months. Ms. Porter replied that there has been a huge improvement and there is no justification to go back sooner. She noted that the Blue Fuji staff is not hesitating to use their knowledge. Ms. Porter is hopeful of their success. Ms. Raj commented that if things start to deteriorate, it would be obvious when Ms. Dagle returns for her routine inspection.

Ms. Thompson asked about Mr. Micu and if he was going to continue working with Blue Fuji. Ms. Dagle replied that he plans to coordinate the choking training and to give Mr. Chen his certification test. Both Ms. Dagle and Ms. Porter hope he stays for longer.

Ms. Dunn asked if anyone knew why there was such a difference in results between the consultants. Ms. Seymour thinks comments from the previous consultant would help understand the situation better. Ms. Porter is not sure exactly, but thinks the restaurant was left in a good place by the last consultant. Between the concern of a hearing and potential consideration by the BOH for revocation of the Food Permit, Mr. Micu starting to work with the restaurant, and the addition of Mr. Chen, who has good managerial skills, Blue Fuji was able to make remarkable progress in a month.

The BOH thanked Ms. Dagle for all of her hard work throughout this entire process.

Board of Health Action Items – Old and New Business

Ms. Seymour attended the Youth and Family Services (YFS) committee meeting. They are resubmitting their application for the Challenge Success Grant, which deals with high school students and stress. They were not selected for the grant the last time they applied, but were able to reapply. The Healthier Bedford Through the Built Environment and Community Design, a document examining how Bedford moved forward with planning and providing for safety and encouraging exercise, is being updated. The Veterans Services, under YFS, is providing services for 40 veterans. The town has an agreement with Lexington and shares a veteran's agent. Dr. Kiessling asked how this relates to the Veteran's Hospital. Ms. Porter replied that the two are unrelated, but with the hospital in Bedford, the town has more veterans. Both the hospital and Veterans Services provide social services for those veterans who need them. Dr. Kiessling asked about veterans' housing. Ms. Porter said there is some housing on the VA property. She added that the town provides a lot of services to the veterans.

Ms. Seymour continued her YFS update by mentioning that the process is underway to find a new Town Manager as Mr. Rick Reed is retiring. The YFS is also trying to address vaping in the schools, as it is continuing to be a problem. They run monthly classes for students who are caught vaping. There was also discussion about the annual scavenger hunt the juniors organize for the seniors. The safety officer was supposed to meet with the student council to let them know what is acceptable. Ms. Porter doesn't think the meeting was successful as there was still a lot of risk-taking behavior observed, some of which has been escalating. There is also an assassin game that also results in risky behavior and injuries.

Dr. Kiessling tried to draft letters to the Selectmen regarding the bus stop shelters, but realized a plan was needed first. She will talk to the DPW about keeping the shelters clear during the winter. Ms. Porter mentioned she had brought it up at the Healthy Bedford meeting. She didn't receive much feedback from the Transportation Committee member present at the meeting. Ms. Dunn asked if it was possible to get the number of people who use the different stops. Dr. Kiessling said some people expressed concern that the shelters would look ugly. She thinks, to start, there needs to be three shelters with one at the Stop and Shop shopping center being very needed. Ms. Thompson suggested one shelter be put up and then evaluate usage and feedback. Ms. Porter wondered if there were grants available. Dr. Kiessling said she would bring examples of styles of shelters from the three main manufacturers to the next meeting. Ms. Porter suggested including how increasing bus usage would decrease cars on the road in the letter. Ms. Seymour added it is also a safety issue. She also suggested that Dr. Kiessling talk to Ms. Sue Baldauf about the MBTA. Not too long ago, the MBTA collected data on bus stop usage and may be able to provide the BOH with the information. Dr. Kiessling is hoping to get the work done in time for the warrant for the Special Town Meeting in the fall.

Dr. Kiessling brought some information on ticks from tick talks given in the past, including information on their biology. One talk, given by Dr. Telford, supported deer culling. Dover did a culling after gathering information on the deer population. Another tick talk discussed personal protection. Dr. Brunkhorst commented that Massachusetts should have a tick plan like New York does. Dr. Kiessling commented that since tick-borne diseases are vector-based diseases, there is not much work being done. Each state manages it differently and states are organized into districts. Funding and employee experience varies widely between the districts. The way tick bites are tracked also varies. The main problem is that no plan has been developed to address tick-borne illnesses. Ms. Porter commented that permethrin treated clothing is not being promoted enough.

Ms. Raj commented that climate change is also affecting the spread of vector-based diseases.

Dr. Brunkhorst commented that she is surprised there is not more of a national push for vaccines to be developed against the tick-borne diseases. Dr. Kiessling commented companies aren't interested in developing these vaccines, as there is not much money in it.

Ms. Thompson asked if it makes sense to collaborate with hospitals since they would be the one to see tick-borne disease cases. It would approach the problem from a different angle and raise more interest through programs.

Ms. Raj said the main issue is not knowing what to tell the public beside the same message that has been given the past few years. Ms. Porter commented that this same message is not enough

for this region.

Dr. Kiessling commented that deer culling should be looked into, even though it would be very unpopular. A deer population estimate would have to be completed first. She said she could call Dover to see how that town handled their cull. Dr. Brunkhorst commented New Jersey also does a deer cull when needed based upon traffic accident information. Deer culling can decrease the tick population as the second year of the tick's life is spent on a deer. The first year is spent on mice, which is addressed by tick tubes. Reducing the tick population before the third year keeps the ticks from laying eggs.

Dr. Kiessling commented that New Jersey also has a really good mosquito control program in place as the state declared mosquitoes nuisance insects once the state found out it was affecting the finances of Atlantic City.

Dr. Brunkhorst asked about having someone come and speak, perhaps someone from New York as they have a tick plan. Ms. Porter replied she is open to doing a talk and will look through some more information to decide who would be suitable. Ms. Seymour added it would be good to include other nearby towns. Ms. Porter said she would work with the Middlesex Tick Task Force to get ideas for speakers. Dr. Brunkhorst suggested also including speakers who are more local and know the area's issues.

Ms. Thompson asked if New York has deer culling. Dr. Brunkhorst replied that deer are treated with permethrin at feeding stations, but doesn't know any further details. Dr. Kiessling added that progesterone is also given to deer to help control the population.

Ms. Porter said the main goal is to prevent disease and promote public health. Dr. Kiessling commented mosquitoes should be declared a nuisance. Ms. Raj added that ticks are also a concern. Ms. Thompson wants the BOH to be more proactive instead of reactive. Ms. Porter said the state has not made any sort of declaration regarding disease and these insects. It is very hard to address tick and mosquito-borne diseases as nuisances, as there is not necessarily anyone to enforce against.

Ms. Raj commented that she knows of people who walk in neighborhoods and pick up ticks in overgrown areas. Dr. Kiessling said neighborhoods can be sampled for ticks and property owners could be responsible for upkeep of the property to prevent tick friendly conditions next to the road and sidewalk where people walk. However, owners of land near conservation land may not be able to do some things based upon conservation land rules. Ms. Porter commented that it may be difficult to enforce and she would have to think about the issue.

Dr. Kiessling asked about town property. Ms. Porter replied that she has spoken to the DPW on upkeep of property to prevent a tick environment, like cutting brush farther back from fields and sidewalks.

Director's Report

Ms. Porter introduced Ms. Paris Marsh, one of the new summer interns. She is a student at the School of Nursing at Simmons University. Ms. Thompson asked where she did her clinicals. Ms. Marsh responded she has done clinicals at Mount Auburn, St. Elizabeth's, Mass General and she is currently at the Brigham and Women's. Ms. Porter reported that Ms. Marsh is working

with the Health Nurse and will also be working on evaluating starting the HPV clinic at the High School. Ms. Marsh was also interested in working with vaping. However, the school was concerned that since it is the summer, there would not be an audience for a presentation. Ms. Porter asked about presenting something to the kids at the summer camps, but there were concerns the kids would not be old enough. Another option Ms. Marsh suggested was to make a poster for the High School to be displayed in the fall and do a presentation on another topic. Ms. Thompson suggested she could give the BOH the vaping presentation and record it. Dr. Kiessling suggested approaching Bedford TV as they are usually very open to such programs and have some resources she could use. Ms. Porter added that the Department of Public Health is also releasing outreach material over the summer on vaping in the schools, so the project would be timely. Ms. Marsh wants to try equating vaping and cigarette usage since kids think cigarette smoking is not cool, while vaping is cool. Ms. Thompson suggested interviewing students on why they are attracted to vaping. Ms. Porter suspects that kids who vape do not know what is actually in the vaping liquid or they wouldn't use the product. Ms. Raj commented she would be interested to know what the schools have been trying to combat vaping in the schools. Ms. Thompson suggested going ahead with the presentation. If Ms. Marsh gave the presentation to the BOH, she could receive credit for the class, and recording it would allow for students to view it starting in the fall.

Ms. Porter added that there is a second summer intern. The intern would work on tick outreach. Ms. Thompson asked if the intern would be learning to write grants. Ms. Porter replied she wouldn't be teaching that, but there are classes available for learning this special skill.

Ms. Porter received reports from the biosafety consultant, Ms. Caruso. She has visited and inspected all ten businesses in Bedford. Dr. Brunkhorst asked about getting clarification on the ratings figure included in the report since it is in black and white. Ms. Porter can ask for clarification, what the ratings were, as well as a color version of the table. Dr. Brunkhorst liked how Ms. Caruso included a list of best practices to be shared with other businesses. However, she wasn't sure how serious some of the issues are, comparatively. Ms. Porter received comments from some of the businesses that complimented the inspection process.

Ms. Thompson asked about the Healthy Dining program. Ms. Porter opened the program up again for this permit year since there was a lot of turnover of restaurants. Each restaurant that agrees to follow the guidelines will receive a decal for their business. Ms. Porter said the next step would be to do a lot of outreach. The restaurants have agreed to be part of the program and now the program needs to be advertised. One of the problems she is experiencing is that restaurants do not want to offer low fat milk. The Healthy Dining program is based on Federal guidelines. Ms. Thompson suggested allowing for milk to be taken off the guideline list.

Ms. Porter said the Secret Life of Teens and Tweens presentation is next week on June 12. She is wondering how many people will attend, as there are a lot of things going on for parents now towards the end of the school year. There has been a lot of outreach and parent organizations have been supportive.

Ms. Porter visited the new Housing Court in Woburn. However, it was not fully staffed yet, so Housing Court will remain in Lawrence until the fall. When she visited Lawrence, she was able to learn how to proceed if a court case is needed. Currently, an affidavit has to be written at the Housing Court, so once the court is moved to Woburn, it will be a lot easier. Ms. Porter

commented that Bedford doesn't have many cases, maybe one or two a year. Ms. Thompson asked if cases are mainly from hoarding. Ms. Porter replied that there are some hoarding cases, but there are also cases dealing with landlord and renter issues.

Ms. Porter is also working on updating the emergency dispensing site plan for distributing mass amounts of antibiotics or medicines to the town. There are two plans needed depending on if a pill or a shot is needed, and if each person needs to be seen or just a representative from a household. There also needs to be a way to dispense if volunteers are not able to help, as they would most likely be unable to leave their own families. Dr. Kiessling asked about a case when cell towers are down. Ms. Porter replied that there are HAM radio operators in the area to help with communication. Ms. Raj volunteered to come in to the office to help answer phones if all the staff needs to be out in the field or at a training. Ms. Seymour added that she could also be available.

Ms. Porter reported that all the staff evaluations have been submitted. She will meet with Mr. Rick Reed to go over them.

Ms. Porter reported that updated Town of Bedford Safety and Emergency Guidelines to the BOH staff. The guidelines go over what to do in various emergency situations. Ms. Porter commented that some departments, especially ones that handle money or may interact with disgruntled residents, want panic buttons like the schools. Dr. Kiessling asked if these plans are online. Ms. Porter replied they were not as these were guidelines specifically for town employees. Ms. Porter commented updating these guidelines made her realize emergency evacuation routes should be updated and posted in the buildings.

Ms. Dunn asked if the BOH is looking for any variances in the budget. Ms. Porter said currently the BOH is not looking for one. Ms. Dunn suggested one for the bus shelters. Dr. Kiessling commented that the decision to ask for a variance will depend on the information on how many people use the bus and would need a shelter.

Ms. Raj moved to adjourn the meeting of the BOH on June 4, 2018; Dr. Brunkhorst seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0-0.

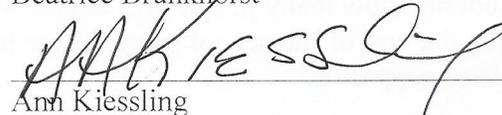
The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 PM.

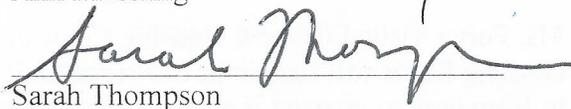
The next meetings of the Board of Health will be July 16th, September 10th, October 15th, November 5th, and December 3rd.


Anita Raj, Chair


Mary Seymour, Vice Chair


Beatrice Brunkhorst


Ann Kiessling


Sarah Thompson