

**Board of Health
Meeting Minutes – October 18, 2022
Selectmen’s Meeting Room
and Remote Meeting via Zoom Video**

PRESENT:

Chairperson – Vincent Forte, Jr.
Vice Chairperson - Patricia Leclair via Zoom
Member: Michael Hennessey via Zoom
Health Agent – Bruce Wilson, Jr.
Food & Tobacco Inspector: Robert Griffin III via Zoom
Minutes Clerk: Laura Renaud via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Forte called the meeting to order at 7:00.

MINUTES:

Ms. Leclair made a motion to approve the minutes of September 20, 2022, as presented. Mr. Hennessey seconded, and the motion carried.

7:00

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mr. Forte opened and continued the Public Hearing for the 2013 Tobacco Regulation amendment. Agent Griffin and Town Counsel have been in contact. They put together the new amendment in writing after the last Board Meeting discussion. Town Counsel could not attend this meeting. Agent Griffin read the new proposed amendment. It will read as follows:
No person shall sell or otherwise distribute any mind-altering substances as defined by the Town of Bellingham. Mind altering is defined as any non-prescription product natural or synthetically created that does not have FDA and/or pharmacopeia approval that has psychedelic, psychotic or hallucinogenic properties. For example: Delta 8, Delta 10 and Kratom.

There are no public comments.

Mr. Forte made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Ms. Leclair seconded, and the motion carried to close the Public Hearing.

Ms. LeClair made a motion to approve the verbiage that Agent Griffin read regarding the 2013 Tobacco Regulation amendment change. Mr. Forte seconded, and the motion carried with a vote of 2 in favor and 1 opposed.

In Favor:

**Mr. Forte, Chairman
Patricia Leclair, Vice Chairman**

Opposed:

Mr. Hennessey, Member

Mr. Forte stated that this verbiage will now be added to the current Tobacco Regulation.

7:30 PM – BUILDING CONDEMN:

740 Pulaski Blvd – Water Shut Off

Agent Wilson stated that the BOH office has not received any correspondence or phone calls from the owner of this property. All certified mailings were returned with no confirmation signatures. Mr. Forte stated that the condemnation stays in place until further notice.

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting Cancellation Process

Mr. Forte discussed the process of the cancellation of Board meetings. He would like an organized process to be put in place for all future Board meetings. The Board Members agreed it must be run by all of them first and they will make the decision as needed. This process will be put in place for every Board meeting going forward.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Forte made an announcement for the Employee Flu Clinic which will be held on October 19th in the Arcand Meeting Room, 1:00 to 4:00 PM.

FOOD INSPECTOR UPDATES

Mr. Forte inquired about Market Basket. When he went in, he noticed the refrigerated products were stacked up high. Agent Wilson went in and did a full inspection and found everything to be in order. The back of the cabinet was in the correct range. They had the correct airflow and the correct temperatures. Ms. Leclair inquired about a past discussion about closing in all the refrigerated sections. Agent Griffin had spoken with them at one time. It is too costly for them right now. She stated if they were to ever do remodeling that may be the time to request updated cooler sections.

Mr. Hennessey inquired about the new restaurant going in at 799 South Main Street. Agent Wilson stated that no one has applied for a permit as of this date. They will have to apply for a new food permit and have a pre-inspection and an opening inspection when they are fully set up.

TOBACCO AGENT UPDATES:

Agent Griffin stated he has been working on the Tobacco Amendment. Once that is complete in full, he will be doing compliance checks shortly and he will notify the Board of the outcome of those.

Mr. Forte asked if the BP Gas at 1052 South Main Street was selling smoking pipes. Agent Griffin had a conversation with the owners, and they are not selling any tobacco products at this point. They are seeking legal action as there was a question whether a new permit issued would be to the franchise or franchisee.

Ms. Renaud asked the Board to clarify the Vape Permit Fee with a Tobacco Permit. Agent Griffin stated that he is still working on that with Town Counsel. The state defines the product

differently than the town. Originally it was going to be a half year permit and a half year price of \$ 400.00 which is half of the Tobacco Permit fee. It is still in process.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board reviewed the Employee Calendar for October and November.

GOALS:

Food Grade System

Agent Wilson and Agent Griffin have been researching other towns Food Inspection systems. Uxbridge post's their inspection reports on their website. They do not put a letter grade. They put the score that they get out of 100. They will continue to research this item.

INTERN:

Mr. Forte discussed the possibility of finding an intern to do research on the cancer cases in Bellingham. He suggested looking into the DPH for a college student to do an internship. The staff will continue to work on this.

HEALTH AGENT UPDATES

Agent Wilson stated the residents from The Charles were in attendance. He fined them \$100.00 for leaving their trash in the hallway. They were not taking it to the dumpster. Agent Wilson recommended rescinding the fine as they have been cooperating. Ms. Leclair recalled all the issues they had at The Charles and their outside dumpsters and compactors overflowing. The resident stated that they have no place to put their trash. They have been renovating the buildings and fill up the dumpsters quickly leaving no place for the residents to put their own trash. They have gone through many managers. They have no one to talk to.

Ms. Leclair asked Agent. Wilson to write a letter or an email to the management and tell them we are having trash issues for the residents. They need extra pickups or more dumpsters. If the main dumpster and compactors are full the tenants have no place to put their trash. Mr. Wilson will ask them to replace the compacter as it is older and quite small for that number of residents. He suggested that the Building Commissioner and Fire Deputy Milot make a visit and meet the new manager. The residents were also concerned about the dryer vents as they need to be cleaned out as it has not been done in years. The fire panels have been going off for months.

Mr. Hennessey made a motion to dismiss the fines for these residents and hold The Charles responsible, subject to get more inspections and if needed get more dumpsters and/or compactors. Ms. Leclair seconded, and the motion carried.

The Board agreed if The Charles takes care of the dumpsters, and the residents continue to leave trash in the hallways the residents will be fined.

BILLS

Mr. Hennessey made a motion to approve the invoice to Salmon VNA for \$ 666.66. Ms. Leclair seconded, and the motion carried.

Mr. Hennessey made a motion to approve the invoice to Gatehouse Media for \$138.26. Ms. Leclair seconded, and the motion carried.

Mr. Hennessey made a motion to approve the invoice to Home Depot for \$ 53.61. Ms. Leclair seconded, and the motion carried.

Mr. Hennessey made a motion to approve the invoice to WB Mason for a total of \$179.92. Ms. Leclair seconded, and the motion carried.

Mr. Hennessey made a motion to approve the invoice to Amazon for \$ 22.88. Ms. Leclair seconded, and the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Leclair made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hennessey and the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Renaud

Laura Renaud
Minutes Clerk

Approved 11/01/2022