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Inspection Services
41 Elm Street

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE
August 10, 2023 BOH Meeting 6:00pm
Veteran's Room

6:15pm Public Hearing: Request Tobacco Hearing Stop & Save 179 Elm St

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
2023 SEP 11 PM 7:12
TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE
41 ELM STREET
SOUTHBRIDGE, MASS 01551

Agenda #1- Open Meeting- 6:15pm

Agenda #2- Roll Call

- D. Grabowski
- J. Quinones-excused
- G. Steeves
- N. Dadalt
- K. Splaine

Agenda #3- Re-Organization- Accepting nominations for Chair. Member Steeves nominates D. Grabowski as Chair; 2nd by Member Splaine:

- Roll Call
- J. Quinones-excused
- D. Grabowski-yes
- G. Steeves-yes
- N. Dadalt-yes
- K. Splaine-yes

Motion passes 4-1 (excused). Member Grabowski is Chair of BOH for FY 2024. Congrats!

Accepting nominations for Vice Chair. Chair Grabowski nominates Member G. Steeves as Vice Chair; 2nd by Member Splaine.

- Roll Call
- K. Splaine- yes
- N. Dadalt-yes
- G. Steeves-yes
- J. Quinones-excused
- D. Grabowski- yes

Motion passes 4-1 (excused). Member Steeves is Vice Chair for FY 2024. Congrats!

Agenda #4- Discuss Board of Health's Duties, Responsibilities and Expectations- Director Wasiuk provides an informational packet to members of the Board with a verbal synopsis of the Board of Health and Health Departments responsibilities. Identifying both to be distinct however interconnected entities to protect public health. The Board of Health adopts regulations related to public health, holds monthly meetings and conducts public hearings as necessary. The Health Department handles the day-to-day procedural operations, executes and enforces various Health regulations and promotes a healthy community.

NOTE: 6:09pm member Quinones joins meeting.

Agenda #5- Accept Meeting Minutes-

- a. February 16, 2023- Chair states he and member Quinones have read and accept the minutes as written (no vote needed)
- b. June 29, 2023- Chair states he and member Quinones have read and accept the minutes as written. Member Quinones agrees (no vote needed)
- c. July 20, 2023- Chair not present for these minutes however, states he has reviewed his part of the minutes. He and member Quinones have read and accept the minutes as written (no vote needed)

6:15pm Public Hearing: request tobacco hearing Stop and Save 179 Elm St now opened by Chair Grabowski- Present for the hearing are Richard Costello, owner of Stop & Save 177-179 Elm St with Hassan and Imran on behalf of Usham Rashid who are co-owners of the convenience store. Mr. Costello states the citation was for failure to maintain certified manufacturers letters for products sold. At the time of the inspection, the letters were available electronically (flash drive) however, without access to a computer they were not readily available therefore, will take full responsibility on the citation.

Jodie Brighenti, Leominster Tobacco Control Alliance explains as sworn in agents for Southbridge, annually conducts retail education visits to all licensed retailers. Educational packets are provided to all licensed retailers. Retailers make available a signature as receiving the information.

Ms. Brighenti explains, on the day of the most recent violation, there were flavored tobacco available for purchasing specifically King Palm Rules (flavor enhancer); Blue Palm Game cigar (vanilla flavored); Kuba Kuba and Delta 8 products. These are not allowed in the State of Massachusetts. **See photos attached.**

In addition, Ms. Brighenti states a warning regarding flavored tobacco was issued in March of 2022 and the first violation of \$1,000 (paid) thus setting the 2nd violation at \$2,000

Discussion regarding product lists, enhancers vs flavored, labels/dates, manufacture/cease & desist letters and protocols takes place.

NOTE: Board allows public comment during hearing.

Ms. Brighenti explains only two motions can be made- responsible (leave order as is; pay fine & or reduce suspension) OR not responsible (product not present or inspection error/protocol)

Member Quinones announces a motion to reconsider the fee; motion not 2nd

Member Dadalt motion to hold the retailer NOT responsible; 2nd by J. Quinones;

Roll Call

N. Dadalt-yes

J. Quinones-yes

G. Steeves-yes

K. Splaine-yes

D. Grabowski-yes

Motion passes unanimously. Motion to close the hearing by J. Quinones; 2nd by K. Splaine

Roll Call

J. Quinones-yes

N. Dadalt-yes
K. Splaine-yes
D. Grabowski-yes
G. Steeves-yes

Motion passes unanimously.

Public Hearing closed at 6:48pm

Agenda #6-Citizens Forum- Councilor Chenier concerned on the proper disposal of textiles (bed sheets; blankets etc). Director Wasiuk explains he will discuss this town wide problem with Anna Smith, Recycling Coordinator and report back to Board.

In addition, Councilor Chenier concerned on the lack of public information pertaining to the future of the curbside collection. Director Wasiuk will make a public announcement tonight.

Francine Farland, Assessors Office appears before the Board explaining the Town will need to provide data on the curbside collection fee for billing purposes.

Councilor Lazo informs the Board the information that is required to proceed with billing is in the Town Managers Office. Currently being reviewed by Councilor, Finance Director and awaiting on the New Town Manager to begin.

Citizen Buxton expresses concerns on number of toters throughout town and Assessor's Office requiring the information necessary for billing purposes.

Councilor Marketti voices the Board AND Health Department are responsible in formulating and enforcing regulations to protect public health at all levels.

Agenda #7-Old Business

a. Update on Tick treatment at Henry St Field- Director Wasiuk explains the treatment completed Monday, July 4th by Braham to control tick activity. The subsequent treatment will be scheduled accordingly. The Town should be ready to enact measures next year. Citizen Buxton suggests pest control treatment be applied for the hiking trail next year.

b. Blight Update-

a. Provide update on 79 North St- Director Wasiuk conducted an inspection stating the structural integrity appears satisfactory. Evidence of clean up on the property (piles of brush). Director Wasiuk deems blight that will impede public health and safety. Blight is subjective. Order to Clean letter will be prepared and mailed to owner.

b. Provide update on 20 Brick Row- Director Wasiuk states bids coming in to demolition this building.

Member Steeves announces the Board of Health and Conservation Committee should be working together concerning the trees falling down, creating a dam at 631 Charlton St.

Agenda #8- Chairman Announcement- On behalf of the Chair, Director Wasiuk reads a curbside statement prepared by Anna Smith in verbatim. (see attached). In addition, the Director reads a statement related to DEP mandating testing for fluoride tracer for the true age of the water system. (**see attached**)

Agenda #9- Board Members Announcements-

a. Steeves- request Fire Chief or Deputy Hulyk attend the next BOH meeting for information on BOH's roles during Town's emergency. Director Wasiuk claims there is no statue requiring BOH in an

emergencies, ...
annually.

NOTE: Related to blight, Director Wasiuk shows illegal dumping signs shows will be posted on Town owned properties.

b. Quinones- welcomes new members. Acknowledges Nicole Duffey's dedication and hard work during her tenure on the Board of Health.

c. Splaine- request the Director provide a blight list and update on 21D tickets. Director Wasiuk explains the top 10 blighted properties are on the list. The department continues issuing 21D tickets in anticipation to lien unpaid tickets.

d. Dadalt- thankful to be a member

e. Grabowski- welcomes new members. Expresses gratitude to former member Nicole Duffey.

Agenda #10- Schedule Next Meeting- September 14, 2023 @ 6:00pm.

Agenda #11- Adjournment- Motion to adjourn made by member Steeves; 2nd by member Splaine;

Roll Call

N. Dadalt-yes

G. Steeves-yes

J. Quinones-yes

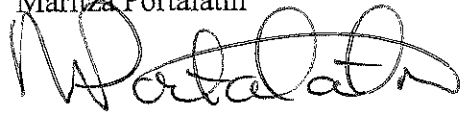
D. Grabowski-yes

K. Splaine-yes

Meeting adjourned at 7:39pm.

NOTE: This meeting is available on YouTube (Southbridge Community Television)

Recording Clerk,
Maritza Portalatin



- On March 31, 2024 the current contract and funding of the Curbside Trash and Recycling program will end. Until then, we will continue with the current contract.
- Town Council voted to institute a Flat Fee to fund the new Contract.
 - Flat Fee: paid by the property owners based on the number of housing units. The exact amount is yet to be determined.
- A Request for Proposals (RFP) was put out in the spring of 2023. Two (2) companies submitted proposals. On June 12, 2023, the Town Council voted to accept a contract with Casella for Curbside Trash & Recycling Services and to allow the Town Manager to sign this contract. The contract is being finalized and will be signed shortly.
- The new contract will be similar to the current contract.
 - Residents will continue to use the trash and recycling totes they currently have.
 - Property owners will pay a Flat Fee (most likely on a quarterly basis.) Our research showed that this is less expensive than private subscription services.
 - Recycling will continue to be picked up bi-weekly. A change will be that ½ the Town's recycling will be picked up one week and the other ½ the following week. (Recycling truck will be in Town every week and will be able to collect any misses from the previous week.)
 - Bulk collections will be booked directly with Casella for a fee. (More information to follow.)
- On June 26, 2023 the Town Council accepted the "Community Compact Best Practice Grant" for a Curbside Collection Analysis to research setting up an "Enterprise Account" for the financial management of the Flat Fee charges. The Town Manager's office awaits the proposals for this study.

Maritza Santos

From: Steve Gregoire
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 8:52 AM
To: Maritza Santos
Subject: FW: Fluoride

Here ya go. Let me know if you need anything else 😊

Thanks,

Steven Gregoire

WhiteWater

Southbridge Water Dept.

Manager – Water

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From: Steve Gregoire
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 2:46 PM
To: Daniel Wasiuk <dwasiuk@southbridgemass.org>
Subject: Fluoride

Dan

I am sorry to be a day late getting this to you, but I wanted to let you know about some DEP mandated testing we are conducting. MassDEP has asked that we conduct a fluoride tracer study. This study will give us a more accurate picture into what the true water age looks like across the entire water system. The process is simple enough, We de-active the fluoride feed system at the water plant, and we take samples twice a day from across the system. We then map out the rate that the fluoride dropped at all points. At that time we will reactive the fluoride feed system and record how quickly it returned to normal.

We conducted a very similar study in 2014. There was no noticeable effect to the water system or the customers as the study only lasts a few weeks. I wanted to keep you in the loop on this, so that you can

inform the board at their next meeting. I do this because technically it is the BOH that mandated years ago that Southbridge be a community that adopted fluoridation for the obvious dental benefits. It stands to reason that we notify them when testing like this is being conducted

If you have any other question, please feel free to reach out. I'd be happy to answer them.

Thanks,

Steven Gregoire

WhiteWater

Southbridge Water Dept.

Manager – Water

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