



Town of Rochester
Board of Health
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BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

September 6, 2023

4:00 PM

Present: Karen Walega, Health Director
Sarah T. Eby, Board of Health
Susan Kucinski, Board Administrator
Megan daCosta Tobacco and Marijuana Program Director
Jennifer Anderson, Tree Talk
Glenn Lawrence, Board of Health
Connie Dolan, Town Nurse
Dale Barrows, Board of Health

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER 4:00 P.M.

Sarah called the meeting to order. Glenn seconded the motion.

Review Minutes – August 2, 2023, minutes

- 4:05 Discussion with Megan daCosta. The Board reviewed the changes previously discussed at the August 2, 2023, meeting, for the Regulations of the Board of Health Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products. The Board reviewed the updated Regulations Ms. daCosta had provided. Glenn made a motion to accept the modified Regulations of the Rochester Board of Health Restricting the Sale of Tobacco products. Dale agreed. Sarah made a motion to adopt the changes. Glenn seconded. Karen advised it would need to go to a public hearing.
- 4:15 Karen reviewed with the Board the request for appointment of an inspector for the Town of Rochester, through the Southcoast Public Health Collaborative Inter-municipal Agreement (IMA). Health Agent from Marion, Shallyn Rodriguez, will do inspections in Rochester. Karen had contacted Matt Armendo, and he advised once inspectors are appointed, the Collaborative can add them to the schedule to conduct inspections. Karen stated Matt agreed they are trying to get the help with experienced agents. Dale made the motion to appoint Shallyn Rodriguez as an Inspector for the Town of Rochester. Glenn seconded. All in favor.
- 4:25 Jennifer Anderson, Tree Talk met with the Board regarding a composting toilet. Ms. Anderson advised they are trying to open a nursery, with employees, and need to have a bathroom facility. Their preference is to have a composting toilet. Ms. Anderson stated she had compared composting toilets to portable toilets and provided information from a training seminar. She stated composting toilets are odor free, no water, bins of materials are poured down, they are cheaper and cleaner than portable toilets, they are good for the

environment, unlike a portable toilet, which every 3 to 4 weeks you have to do something, rotate the cylinder, it is fertilizer, uses a bulking material to create the compost, when there is excess liquid it vents out, has an overflow valve, and it is an advanced system. Ms. Eby asked how many employees, Ms. Anderson said only 1, the capacity is 2 people, and Ms. Eby responded, it is 2 people (employer + employee). Ms. Anderson said it is seasonal, and it would be the owners and one employee, 3 hours in the morning, and 2-3 hours in the afternoon. Ms. Eby inquired if there are impacts if it is not used: What is the maintenance? Ms. Eby is concerned about the water, draining, and groundwater. Ms. Eby said they would get back to her. Ms. Eby brought up concerns if there are other people on site. Ms. Eby added that composting toilets are not DEP approved for general use. Dale feels the composting toilets are problematic. Ms. Eby suggested they do more research. Ms. Anderson said they can do it going into the next season. Mr. Barrows stated the composting toilets are not approved for general use by the DEP. Ms. Anderson explained portable toilets cost about \$250 a month, are toxic, there is waste, and go to the sewage treatment plants. She said Bloom Soil as an example, and they convert waste into fertilizer, which is better for the environment. During this discussion, Ms. Eby did research on DPH and composting toilets for human waste and advised us that composting toilets are not approved. They are only approved in five (5) states, and Massachusetts cannot at the moment. Ms. Anderson said they would reluctantly go with a port-o-john. Ms. Anderson said when her husband spoke with the Plumbing Inspector, Larry Ferreira. He was told there was no way to wash hands and explained to use hand sanitizer. Dale said, as it is, they would have to convince the DEP to let them use a composting toilet, and in the meantime, they would have to go with the portable bathroom for the employee. Ms. Anderson asked, is it on hold for now? Ms. Eby said No. The portable toilet should satisfy the requirements.

Public Health Nurse Report

Connie reported the following number of cases: Babesiosis 2, Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis 1, Lyme Disease 5, Lyme disease 6, Novel coronavirus 5, and Novel coronavirus 7.

She reported the Weekly Wellness Clinics at the Senior Center continue to be well attended. 8/ - 6 visits; 8/9 - 2 visits; 8/16 - 4 visits; 8/23 - 5 visits, and 8/3 --7 visits. The Wellness clinics at the Annie Maxim home were canceled for the first 2 weeks in August due to several residents being ill. She wrote a newsletter article for Senior Center on the flu vaccine/clinic. Attended bi-weekly DPH webinars. Met with Marcia Kessler regarding annual opioid settlement funds online expenditure reporting. Completed reporting to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (CaresMA.org). Planning phase for pilot free CPR/First Aid/Narcan administration for Rochester residents to be held 11/1/2023 at the Rochester Senior Center from 12:30-3:30 P. M. Rochester has received \$29,040.21 to date. Completed online Community Narcan Program application, including program outline, roles of key staff, protocols, and data collection. This free Narcan program is funded by the Harm Reduction Services Coordinator at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH). Attended training for In Temp data logger/thermometer for pharmaceutical fridge at the Annex. Flu Clinics 2023 - October 10th 10-1, at the Senior Center, and October 16th 4-7 at the library. Ordered and checked in vaccine from Sanofi and the State. Coordinating nurse volunteers and additional clinic dates. Taking registrations for the 10/10 clinic now. One list of registrations will be maintained to ensure that the number of vaccines is equal to the

number of registrants. Attended MAPHN meeting. Collected information regarding an animal bite that was reported to the BOH on 8/31. Contacted the parent of the victim and Wareham Pediatrics. Official written report had not been received at the BOH.

Connie advised Eric had applied for the vaccine through a grant, the high dose for the elderly for \$10,000. Connie ordered 120, and it is all being paid for through the grant. Connie advised that she probably will need move it to a location where there is a generator due to it needing to be refrigerated. The COA has a generator, and the pharmaceutical fridge with a lock has to be monitored with the temp logger. Connie has no problem moving it to where it will be safe (in the event of a power outage).

Connie discussed the dog bite, which occurred during an Old Rochester Regional HS track meet. Connie advised the skin was broken, and they followed protocol. They got the contact information for the dog owner and the dog was up to date on shots.

Health Director Report

Health Director Walega attended meetings with the Board of Selectmen about 373 County Road and the use of the Town Council. Planning Interdepartmental meeting. Issued pool permit 60 Clapp Road 6-R; Site plan reviews 82 Alley Road and 24 Bennett Road; Inspections – Gerrish Road, 8 Robinson Road, 301 Hartley Road, and Box Turtle Drive; Complaints – lot on Walnut Plain Road with junk, report that there is a gentleman who brought in a camper, and report of people sleeping there. It was referred to the zoning enforcement agent; Title V report – 12 Thistle Lane, and Certificates of Compliance 33 Robinson Road, and 42 Box Turtle Drive.

Correspondence

Letter to Antonio Caneiro from Karen
Letter from Maura Healey re: migrant family crisis
Letter from MA DEP to Andrew McCourt, re: Notice of Responsibility
Letter from MA DEP, re: private well owners who had their wells tested.
Peer Review Report #3, Proposed Commercial Park with recreational marijuana establishment, 621 County Road
Follow-up letter to Christine Hebert
Letter to Collins Civil Engineering Group for 182 Alley Road Variance
Email from Suzanne Szyandlar re: Opioid Abatement Settlement Fund
State Health Officials announce first tow human cases of WNV in MA
Rochester in moderate WNV risk level

Karen presented DEP information with the watershed. They would be going after New Bedford. New Bedford and Fairhaven are the highest contributor because of the wastewater treatment plant. Rochester contributes 3 % and Lakeville contributes 1 %. The goal is to reduce nitrogen by 50%.

Glenn made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:54 p.m., and Sarah seconded.
Meeting adjourned.

DATE: 10/4/2023

[Signature]