



TOWN OF CHARLTON

37 MAIN STREET
CHARLTON, MA. 01507
508-248-2210

BOARD OF HEALTH

February 26, 2019

Members Present:

Jon Sanborn, Chairman
Matt Gagner, Vice Chairman
Kathleen Walker, Member

Also Present:

James Philbrook, Health Director

- Chairman Jon Sanborn called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
- Vaping was first under new business on the agenda. There was a Board of Selectmen meeting last week that some of the Board members and James Philbrook, Health Director attended. Matt Gagner, Vice Chairman stated that an awareness of vaping was brought up at this meeting. Member Kathleen Walker believes that the Selectmen are committed to doing something about the vaping issue in town. It is a matter of educating parents and grandparents of the dangers of vaping. She also mentioned that the town of Webster had banned selling vaping materials. Should Charlton consider this? James Philbrook is not in support of any type of smoking, but believes that vaping is a better option than cigarettes for people over 21. Kathleen suggested to put vaping back on the agenda for this fall to see if the recent change to over 21 to buy tobacco products has decreased under age usage. Chairman Jon Sanborn agrees and has been doing research on vaping as well.
- Resident Kristin Kustigian of 88 Carroll Hill Rd. stated that vaping is an epidemic in the schools and that the schools are doing a good job educating the children and parents about vaping.
- Jon suggested that we put a video out on our website to educate about the hazards of vaping. He also thinks we should keep it as an ongoing topic on the BOH meeting agenda. Jon suggested handing out pamphlets to the parents. Kristin thought maybe a flyer should be handed out at the next town meeting.

Jim thinks that Bay Path having detectors is a good idea, but this could be costly for the schools. Jim will ask Bay Path how they got them.

- Resident Noreen Johnson Smith at 136 Dresser Hill Rd. worked at DPH in Boston recently. She stated that on the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards (MAHB) website, Charlton is one of less than 1/3 of the communities in the state that does not have any regulations on tobacco in addition to state regulations. She stated that she heard the BOH state that there was nothing we can do as a Health Board to stop youth from using. She believes that is not true. You have regulatory authority and the only board that can make changes that would help control the spread of tobacco among children.
- Steve Koronis from 17 Old Worcester Rd. suggested that the Board inquire about how many vaping offenses are being recorded at the schools. Most parents don't know what a "juul" is, but all 8th grade students raised their hands stating they did know.
- Massachusetts Association of Health Boards has a map that shows communities that have adopted regulation on tobacco retail. It includes 172 communities that have a ban of tobacco sales in pharmacies, 112 cap on number of retail licenses to sell tobacco, 186 minimum legal age of sale 21, restriction of the packaging of cheap cigars 164 communities, restriction on the sale of flavored products 124 communities and 133 out of the 351 cities and towns have no regulations and Charlton is one of them.
- Jim mentioned that the town will have a Health Fair on April 30th and that the BOH will have a booth and will include information about vaping and tobacco products.
- Kathleen also suggested having a booth and putting up something colorful at the Earth day festival on April 27th to attract kids and educate parents.
- John Jordan of 68 H. Foote Rd. suggested creating a sub-committee to work on these issues.
- Kathleen would like to make a motion that the Board consider banning all vaping products. She would like to consider bringing it up at our next meeting to ban it. Matt would like some more time to investigate. Matt would second the motion for consideration to talk about it at a future meeting, but he is not ready to put the regulation in at the next meeting. Jon agrees with both of them. All in favor.
- Jim will reach out to Cheryl Sbarra, Senior Staff Attorney and Director of the Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Program, to see if she could send us something to help us along with this issue.

- Cheryl Sbarra recently published a white paper on school policies and tobacco that is available on the MAHB website that could be a resource to the schools if they have not adopted anything.
- Flint Rd. landfill next on agenda. Jim spoke to Gary Magnuson from CMG Environmental. We need a third party inspector and Gary recommended Tessa David. See attached letter. Jim will ask Gary to come to the next meeting and discuss this. Matt would like to table the discussion until the next meeting.
- Burlingame Rd. water test came back clean. This will be discussed with Gary at next meeting as well.
- H. Foote Rd. business was next on agenda. John Jordan called in an odor complaint on Saturday and has not gotten a copy of it. Mark Widing questioned what was being trucked into the landfill. Matt has noticed covered trucks as well. They are not sure what is in them. Jim will find out what the smell over the weekend was.
- Valley Green Grow project. Gerald Russell of 63 Old Worcester Rd. would like to discuss the role of the Board of Health in the planning stages. He brought up drainage issues and the street not being wide enough as safety issues.
- Ed Kochling of 47 Hanson Rd. has concerns with how they will handle storm water. Jim stated that being in the planning stages, it is being reviewed by Graves Engineering at this point. Ed brought a plan and spent time reviewing it out loud.
- Revisions to the plans are coming on a weekly basis. Kathleen suggested that she would like to review the plans when they are done being revised. Jon agreed with her.
- Ed Kochling continued to explain his concerns with the plans that have been submitted thus far.
- The residents are looking for the BOH to make a statement on their behalf to the Planning Board that there are safety concerns with the current plans that have been submitted. Jim is saying that he would like to let the process follow through and get a definitive plan before reviewing it for approval. Jon wants to make sure we don't miss the 45 day review period.
- Matt stated that he understands the concerns that are being brought up, but as far as Matt is concerned it would not be until there was a contaminant found in the storm water that they Board of Health would be involved. Storm water is not a Board of Health issue in itself, it is Conservation and Highway.
- Jon will attend the Planning Board meeting on March 6th to help convey the concerns that were brought up at this meeting.
- Dan Leary from Valley Green Grow stated that this is a definitive subdivision plan for purposes of freezing the zoning. No facility has been proposed. He stated that

the plans that were submitted 6 weeks ago have not changed much. There have been very minor revisions made to them. Todd Girard, Conservation Agent for the town as well as William Scanlon have reviewed these plans and met with him about them. He believes that everything that has been discussed at the meeting tonight has been addressed with Mr. Andrade of Graves Engineering as well.

- Mike Novak from Meridian Associates, Project Engineer, addressed concerns regarding the plans as well. Drain pipes and culverts were discussed.
- Mr. Leary mentioned that according to the previous comment letters from Mr. Andrade in regards to drainage and hydrology, the plans are meeting the standards required by the town.
- Jon Sanborn clarified that this plan is only for a portion of the acres for a subdivision for zoning only. This plan is not for any structure at all at this time. We have to look at this one step at a time.
- Residents are concerned because they know what the intention for this land is. They can't pretend that they don't know what this is all about. There has been a site plan submitted that was denied.
- Discussion about concerns for this site continued.
- Marijuana discussion was next on agenda. Green Gold Group has to tie into public water.
- John Smith of 136 Dresser Hill Rd. would like to see the passion about the hazards of vaping and what we are going to do about them carry over to the marijuana topic as well. There are concerns on people getting hooked on marijuana as well with the facilities that are being considered in Charlton.
- Kathleen stated that the BOH concern is not money. We are just concerned with health. We are constrained by what we can do.
- Jim went on with department reports. We have 2 qualified applicants to bring forward for the position of Title 5 Engineer. Folders were given to the Board members to review and return to the office. Interviews should be set up at the next meeting in front of the board in open session. March 19th will be the next meeting.
- Jim mentioned that Planning Board plans come to him to review all the time. He feels that it is his duty to review them for the Board and bring forward only when there are concerns. There are far too many subdivision plans to bring them all to the Board. Kathleen suggested that if the Board wants to come in and review the plans on their own time and they can and determine if they want to go with Jim's recommendation. She would like to add it as an item on the agenda.
- Jim and the Board go with the recommendations of the experts for each individual plan.

- Matt made motion to adjourn, Kathleen second, all in favor at 9:40 p.m.