



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

BOARD OF HEALTH

August 10, 2021

Members Present:

Jon Sanborn, Chair

Matt Gagner, Vice Chair

Pete Lancette, Member

- Chair, Jon Sanborn, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- Vice Chair, Matt Gagner, made a motion to accept minutes from July 27, 2021. Member, Pete Lancette seconded and all-in favor.
- The Recycle Committee was in attendance. Chair, Deb Marquis gave some updates. The Recycling Committee did qualify for the \$1000.00 DEP grant that enables them to purchase 30% recycled products to sell in town to help people reuse, recycle, compost, and reduce litter. They have made \$604 this fiscal year selling these products. They often use the money to buy things such as road signs and support other initiatives, products that they can't get with the Grant. Household Hazardous waste day vouchers are working well. There were 55 used in June. Deb was able to be at that HHWD and hand out vouchers to Charlton residents that did not have them and hopes to be there again in September. The Recycle Committee would like to start being one of the chapter towns for Keep Mass Beautiful. They promoted neighborhood cleanups and provided free litter pickup kits to 60 residents. The Committee also donated \$500.00 to Keep Mass Beautiful to help pay for the cost of the kits so that residents can get them for free. They are hoping to have some plans in the fall that include school children and a roadside cleanup and working together with the Earth Day Committee.
- Residents Joe Mahaney and his wife Celeste have been working on an anti-littering by law. They were encouraged to talk to Police Chief Dowd about the challenges trying to keep the town clean. Chief mentioned that it was a bit frustrating that there are no town by laws, so if he wants to fine someone for littering, he has to do it using the state law. The chief would have to send an officer to a hearing at Dudley District Court, which is a significant hit on his budget. Also, the state takes half of the proceeds of the fine. This does not make economic sense. If there was a town by law no police officer has to get involved. The town clerk collects the fine and the town gets to keep 100% of the proceeds, so he suggested that it may help a bit to have a town by law. The Recycling Committee is looking for the support of the Board of Health. They will do the work to take it in front of the Selectmen, Town Administrator, town Lawyer and then to town Meeting.

- Jon applauds their efforts, and he is surprised nobody has already done this. He thinks it makes sense and is a good idea. Littering is definitely an issue and anything that can be done to solve this issue would be great.
- Matt Gagner has mixed emotions on it and has not had time to think about it yet. He does understand the dilemma with the police. He is not sure how he feels about it yet, but he is certainly willing to listen.
- Pete Lancette asked what jurisdiction we would have if someone from another town litters in Charlton. What if they don't show up to the Town Clerk to pay the fine? Jon agrees that this has to not just be for Charlton residents, but for anybody driving through. Jon would like to get Health Director, Jim Philbrook's, take on it.
- Kathleen believes that the by law would have to be approved at town meeting and before that it would have to be approved by the town attorney and the Board of Selectmen. The first thing that they need is the support of the Board of Health or they won't be able to move forward. They are not necessarily looking for sponsorship, but just support. We need to bring attention to the fact that there is so much littering in town. Many people are upset about this.
- Jon was wondering if they had checked with other towns and how this works for them. Joe admits that he got the fine amounts from looking at other towns like Holden, Sturbridge and Southbridge. They ranged from \$100 to \$500 in fines for the first violation.
- Peter wanted more clarity on the tracking of these violations. Jon believes these are good questions that need to be looked into, especially since there will be a lot of out-of-town offenders. Jon is in favor in going forward with something like this.
- Matt and Jim have discussed this before and believe the policing behind it would be difficult. How does this all work with the State Police especially if someone litters on the Mass Pike? Matt is not saying yes or no, he is interested in hearing more about it. Pete would like to get the answers to some questions as well. Jon will have it on the top of the next Agenda and the Recycling Committee is invited and hopefully they can get some more information as well.
- Matt made a motion to table the discussion. Pete second, all in favor.
- Cemetery and Gould updates was next on the agenda. Nobody has heard anything of substance.
- Covid and Vaccine updates. There was a daycare outbreak and all parties involved have been tested. There was a worker that is vaccinated that tested positive at Overlook and it appears there has not been any more spread of Covid. No news from Superintendent LeMarch regarding the schools yet. There was a DPH call at 3:00 today and he is waiting for any updates from Jim on that.
- Peter mentioned that the Covid situation is fluid and he doesn't want to go down pathways in the planning process that will lock us into a single direction. He thinks we need to stay agile and adjust as the trends adjust especially with school children. He personally thinks the vaccine is a good idea as well as masking, but at this point doesn't want to mandate mask wearing unless they set some threshold or triggers to mandate mask wearing. Jon would like to wait for the CDC and state guidelines and hopes it is not this Board that has to make the decision.

- Nothing under new business to discuss.
- No Department Head reports with Jim Philbrook not being in attendance.
- The next meeting will be scheduled on August 24^h, 2021, by Zoom. They may include the Dudley Board of Health as well to discuss school and Covid updates.
- Matt made motion to adjourn, Pete second all in favor 6:33 p.m.

Jim Philbrook
Matt Sagner

