

Minutes
Northfield Board of Health
June 7, 2023
6:00 PM
Northfield Town Hall
69 Main Street, Northfield, MA
Board of Health Office 2nd Floor

Call to Order: 6:01 pm

Quorum Established: David Balk, Kathie Bridges, Ruth Potee, Ali Wahlstrom, Karen Boudreau
Also Present: Pamela Veith, BOH Secretary, Bob McEwen, John Briggs

Business:

- John Briggs from EPA division of mosquito testing/sampling came to explain about the types of traps, the types of mosquitos and the types of locations where sampling and testing would take place. John explained that last year's dry weather kept the mosquito population down so sampling/testing concluded sooner in the fall than normally. This is the first year that Northfield has participated in this program.
- John explained that the Board will get a list of all locations where traps are set. These traps are set in areas of wetlands as well as thick forested locations. The traps are not harmful to humans, pets or wildlife other than mosquitos. Traps are well hidden and locations are changed frequently. Northfield will have 6 to 7 traps set in varying locations throughout the season (April to October).
- The Board will be notified immediately if any of the mosquitos trapped carry illnesses such as EEE or other mosquito borne illnesses. The Board has contact information for John Briggs and he did bring a trap to show what it actually looks like. John informed the Board that the EPA no longer does dead bird testing.
- Kathie went to the last Selectboard meeting discuss Board of Health's request to give notice to withdraw from the FRCOG nursing contract. Kathie explained that the Board is exploring another Nursing program that is covered by a long term grant. Kathie explained that our FRCOG contract requires we give 12 months' notice prior to withdrawing from their services. She also explained that we would use a small amount of this time to further investigate the nursing grant program and compare quality and quantity of services.
 - During this time Phoebe Walker, Director of Community Services for FRCOG was present and explained that the grant program the Board of Health is investigating is only free to towns without current nursing services. Phoebe was also able to explain a variety of the particulars of that nursing grant program.
 - Kathie states to the Board of Health that she sees no advantage to switching our nursing services from our current coverage under FRCOG to the nursing grant program. Ali made a motion that we continue with FRCOG for nursing services coverage. Ruth seconded the motion. Board passed the motion unanimously. The Board decided that it isn't necessary for Phoebe Walker to come back to speak with the Board again about the nursing services at this time.
- David states that Tom Walker came in for two emergency beaver removal permits since the last meeting. David signed and dispensed both. David states that any emergency permits requested by the Highway Department should be granted and dispensed by any Board of Health member receiving the request.
- Bob McEwen, Recycling Coordinator/Transfer Station Manager came to speak with the Board in order to clarify aspects of who he reports to and who he is supervised by. According to Bob's job description and Bob himself, he is supervised by the Town Administrator with direction from the Board of Health. Bob signs the time sheets for all Transfer Station employees as well as his own time sheet.
 - Bob suggests the Board become more active in supervision of his job. Bob states that he and he alone understands all aspects of how the transfer station is run. Bob states that if something should happen to him, or if he should retire, it would be very difficult to continue a smooth operation. The Board agrees and appreciates this input. Bob is in the beginning stage of compiling a binder of working procedures for the Transfer Station.
 - The Board has asked that Bob attend the September Board of Health meeting to continue to improve communications, check progress in several areas and discuss ideas for improvement. The job description for this position to be made available to Board members at the next meeting. It

was also discussed that the Board of Health wants to be active in any hiring of new Transfer Station employees.

- Some complaints have been received about the limit of number of cars actively disposing of trash and recyclables to 4 cars, now that Covid distancing is no longer in place. Bob explained that with only one attendant, keeping the limit at 4 cars at a time allows greater overview of what is being disposed of. It also allows for the attendant to assist any residents requiring help with their disposables. It was pointed out that the waiting time is no more than a few minutes even during popular times/days.
- Franklin County Solid Waste Contract was signed by Board
- David has completed the Diversity (Racial) Training for the Board, as required by the DPH grant funding.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

- ~~Minutes May-10, 2023--Approved~~

Citizen's Concerns:

- None

Permit Applications:

- Septic system permit - 601A Mt Hermon Station Road - approved
- Septic system permit 34 Main Street - approved
- Brown Dog Bike Tours special event application – approved with the addition that a port-a-potty be available at each end of the trail. Board signed the application and has passed it along to the Town Secretary.

Reports:

- Assorted septic pumping reports - reviewed
- East Northfield Water report - reviewed
- Title V Inspection Report for 70 A & B Lucky Clapp Road – system failed
- Report from Rich Earth on urine sample for applying at Marksohn property on Millers Falls Road – owner has now complied with all permit requests

Items Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair within 48 Hours:

- Board has requested a list of all trash disposal companies (private haulers) operating in Northfield. No private trash haulers have applied for permits to operate in town for 2023. This will be discussed at next meeting and a letter will be composed and sent out.
- Next meeting(s) proposed to be June 21, July 12 & July 26.

Adjourn: 7:25 pm

Karen O'Keefe 6/29/23

David C. Bell 6/29/23

Kathryn A. Bridges 29 June '23