



NATICK 180  
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Remote Participation by Zoom

8:30 am April 5, 2023



MINUTES

Steering Committee Member or Designee	Organization	Sector Represented	Present	Absent
Lauren Lele	Newton Wellesley Hospital	Healthcare	✓	
Dr. Catharina Armstrong	Newton Wellesley Hospital	Healthcare	✓	
Adelaida Gibson	MetroWest Medical Center	Healthcare	✓	
Donald Breda	Natick Board of Health	Local Government	✓	
Art Ferguson	Natick Public Schools	Schools	✓	
Christine Guthery	SPARK Kindness	Civic / Volunteer	✓	
Chief James Hicks	Natick Police Department	Law Enforcement	✓	
Lt. Chad Howard	Natick Police Department	Law Enforcement	✓	
Paul Joseph	Natick Selectboard	Local Government	✓	
Shai Fuxman	Natick School Committee	Schools		✓
Saralyn Keller, Chair	Natick Interfaith Leader Association / First Congregational Church	Religious / Fraternal	✓	
Chief Jason Ferschke	Natick Fire Department	Local Government	✓	
Johny Georges	Natick Fire Department	Local Government	✓	
Cheryle Lucenta	SOAR Natick	Other organization involved in reducing substance misuse	✓	
Erin Miller	Natick Public Schools	Schools	✓	

Dr. Anna Nolin Vice Chair	Natick Public Schools	Schools		✓
Katie Sugarman	Natick Health Department / Natick 180	Local Government	✓	
Michael Boudreau	Natick Health Department	Local Government	✓	
Jessica Cliff	Natick Health Department	Local Government	✓	
Staff				
Lizzy Chalfin	Natick Health Department / Natick 180	Local Government	✓	
Astrid Dretler	Natick Health Department / Natick 180	Local Government	✓	
Member(s) of the Public				



Link to Meeting PowerPoint: [SLIDES](#)

**Citizens' Concerns:** None.

Vote on **March 8, 2023 Steering Committee Meeting minutes**. A motion was made to approve the minutes "as is", seconded, and then approved by majority vote. The meeting attendee list will be updated to eliminate Father Gallick from the list of Steering Committee members since he retired.

**Coalition Governance and Operations:  
Chair and Co-Chair Elections**

Ms. Keller and Dr. Nolin have been the Chair and Vice Chair for the past two years. The Steering Committee bylaws state that these positions must be voted on every year and no person can serve in the position for more than two years.

Mr. Boudreau offered to serve as Vice Chair. There was some discussion about whether elected officials can serve in either the Chair and Vice Chair roles. Since the current by-laws state that somebody must be a member of the Steering Committee for at least one year before serving in a leadership position, there was further discussion about whether this means that an individual must be on the Steering Committee or a position (ie: Fire Dept. liaison) must exist for one year before a person can serve in a leadership position. There is an opportunity to re-write some of the Steering Committee by-laws if current Steering Committee members so choose. The elections for a new Chair and Vice Chair will take place at the May Steering Committee meeting.

**Finance Updates**

- There is about \$18,000 left in Prevention and Outreach funds. The Upmetrics data management contract will be covered by some of these funds.
- There is about \$81,000 left in Year 10 DFC funds.

- There is about \$23,000 left in legislative earmark funds. Some of this will be used to purchase Narcan for the community. 4mg doses will be purchased for the general community and 8mg Kloxxado doses will be purchased for the Fire Department (25 boxes).

### **After Prom Party (APP)**

The After Prom Party will be held on the evening of prom at NHS. Natick 180 can make a \$2,000 donation to the APP (\$1000 from DFC and \$1000 from the donations account). Steering Committee members are in support of this, a motion was made, seconded, and voted on to approve by the Steering Committee. Anybody who is interested in volunteering during the APP event can contact Katie.

Questions were raised about whether Juniors and Seniors will be invited to attend the APP in the future and whether an alternative event to prom (ie: a Red Sox game for students not interested in attending prom) could be offered. The schools will look into both of these questions further and get back with an answer.

Senior Prom - May 12th

Junior Cruise - June 8th

A question was raised about economic equity for prom. The cost of attending prom can be significant, and may place an undue burden on families and students. There is support and resources for students who cannot afford prom (discounted tickets, donated clothes, etc.). This is part of a larger conversation and further discussion should be had in the future.

### **Natick 180 Updates and Announcements:**

#### **a. Spring Coalition Meeting Planning**

The Natick 180 Coalition staff proposed holding the Spring Coalition Meeting on Thursday, May 25th from 5:30 - 7 PM ET. This meeting would be held in a hybrid format. Coalition staff will move forward with planning the event for this date.

Each year, the Coalition's Spring meeting acknowledges Natick 180 Coalition members who have made significant contributions to the Coalition over the past year with a Community Champion Award. The nomination form for this award will be sent out soon, and the Steering Committee will then vote on the recipients at the May meeting. Natick 180 would also like to use this meeting to acknowledge the graduating seniors from NHS who are part of NATI. Overall, this event is celebratory in nature.

#### **b. HRiA Strategic Plan**

The Strategic Plan is finalized and has been shared with Natick 180 Coalition members. The Coalition will plan to host an event in the Fall to disseminate the plan to the public and invite community members to get involved.

#### **c. Upcoming Activities/Events:**

- 4/13 - Growing Up Public (hosted by SPARK Kindness and Natick 180 will be a spotlight partner)
- 4/17 - Natick 180 booth at the Boston Marathon(Natick Center). Giveaways will be provided (including medication lock bags) and Prescription Drug Take Back Day will be promoted.
- 4/22 - Prescription Drug Take Back Day (locations will include Wegmans and the Natick Police Department). The RiseOn van will be there to collect sharps, and medication lock bags will be available.
- 4/26 - 8th grade step up night at NHS. NATI will be there promoting their club and inviting more youth to join.
- 4/27 - Building Your Family Caregiver Toolkit (presented by Families For Depression Awareness)
- 4/30 - Cochituate Rail Trail clean-up (led by SPARK Kindness, Keep Natick Beautiful, and the Natick Rotary). Natick 180 staff will attend to help collect sharps and Natick 180 Coalition members are invited to attend.

### **4. TOWN DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

#### **a. Natick Police Department**

Current Statistics:

- Year To Date overdose totals: 10 in 2023; 6 in 2022 (this includes opioid and non-opioid involved incidents)
- Year to Date overdose death totals: 1 in 2023; 4 in 2022.

So far in 2023, Narcan was used 60% of the time (all from fire and police departments). Opiates represent 50% of reported overdoses. Year to date, the majority of overdoses are among 41-50 years olds, 70% of individuals with reported overdoses are female, and 50% of those who overdose are Natick residents.

A question was raised about what the protocols are for Natick Public Schools when students who attend NPS have a reported overdose/adverse reaction to drug use. The school SROs are typically informed so that wraparound care can be provided. The police and schools can talk further about how to contact school personnel and maintain confidentiality/HIPAA compliance in these situations.

**b. Natick Fire Department** - no additional reports to share.

#### **c. Natick Public Schools**

Natick 180 staff will connect with NPS next week to formalize the partnership with the schools (given Dr. Nolin's departure) and the INTERFACE contract.

#### **d. Health Department**

The COVID-19 emergency on the state and federal levels ends on May 11th.

The 37th Annual Household Hazardous Waste Day is on May 6th. Individuals must be a Natick resident and register in-person. The cost per car is \$10 and the event is limited to 300 cars.

#### **e. Select Board**

A recent alcohol policy change is being proposed in Article 19 of Natick's Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant. This would allow Natick to file a Home Rule Petition to change a policy for club license holders. Non-member events historically were required to apply their revenues to non-profit organizations. This proposed policy change would eliminate this requirement. The reason for this proposed change is that many of the non-profit clubs with a club alcohol license are (a) facing economic challenges which can be overcome by applying their non-member event receipts toward their own operations and (b) unnecessarily burdened with this requirement which was imposed by a prior Natick Home Rule Petition.

The Select Board voted to approve holding an annual alcohol license holders meeting. The first meeting should take place in the next couple of months.

#### **f. Health Sector**

##### **i. Newton Wellesley Hospital**

The hospital hosted a multi-department event with the substance use, child psychiatry, and resiliency project departments. The event went very well and gave an opportunity for parents to ask questions and highlight the realities of what youth are experiencing with substance use and mental health. A large part of the conversation focused on how to get youth to be involved in the community and activities. Katie and a NATI youth member from NHS participated in and presented during the event.

Dr. Armstrong is running the marathon and raising money for the Boston Bulldogs. The Boston Bulldogs are hosting a Run For Recovery 5K & Tribute on May 21st. For more information and to register, visit:

<https://www.bostonbulldogsrunning.com/2023runforrecovery.html>

**ii. MetroWest Medical Center** - Tabled, the representative had to leave early.

#### **COMMUNITY REPORTS:**

**SOAR Natick** - the group is fulfilling grant requests and reading through scholarship applications for graduating NHS students. SOAR is also preparing for the Boston Marathon and wrapping up some fundraising efforts for this year's runner.

**SPARK Kindness**

- 4/13 from 7-8 PM - Growing Up Public: Navigating Reputation and Social Media in the Digital Age. Art Fergusson from the schools will help host this event.
- 4/30 from 1-3PM - Community Cleanup at the Rail Trail as part of Earth Day weekend celebrations (event sponsors include the AmVets, Rotary Club, and Keep Natick Beautiful)

SPARK Kindness is applying for a grant from the MetroWest Health Foundation to develop the MetroWest Anti-Bullying Coalition. These efforts would primarily focus on identity- based bullying since this is a particularly harmful form of bullying and is often compounded by other forms of discrimination such as racism.

The "What is in your heart project" led by local artist Denise Girardin will feature 2023 red hearts along a fence in Natick Center. This effort is supported by the Natick Center Cultural District and SPARK Kindness (to name a few). Hopefully this display will be up for several months.

Christine from SPARK Kindness was recently honored at the State House for her work with the MetroWest Regional Coalition for Suicide Prevention.

**Interfaith Leader Association** - Tabled, the representative had to leave early.

**Recovery community** - tabled due to SC member not present at this meeting

**Action Team Upcoming Meetings:**

- Access To Services - April 26th, 1:00-2:30 PM - Focus: recovery supports, recovery friendly workplaces, & grief outreach
- Education and Awareness - April 11th, 9:00-10:30 AM - Focus: Programming & planning for 2023
- Policy Action Team - TBA - Focus: Natick alcohol policies

**Set the next meeting date/time and adjourn**

- The next Steering Committee meeting is proposed for Wednesday, May 3rd from 8:30-10:00 AM. The group will be voting on new officers and the community champion award.

*Agenda items will be addressed in an order determined by the meeting facilitator.*