

Town of Natick

Board of Health

September 12, 2023 via ZOOM

Meeting Minutes

Present: Karla H. Sangrey, PE, Chair; Peter A. Delli Colli, DMD, Vice Chair; Donald J. Breda, PE, Clerk

Also Present: Michael K. Boudreau, MPA, RS/REHS, Director of Public Health

Absent: none

Call to Order: Chair Sangrey noted a quorum was present and called the meeting to order via roll call, Dr. Delli Colli, Mr. Breda and Ms. Sangrey all present remotely

Citizens' Concerns: none presented

Discussion and Decision: June 5, 2023 meeting minutes

The draft minutes were reviewed and discussed.

Dr. Delli Colli made a motion to accept the June 5, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.

Mr. Breda seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion.

The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Sangrey, yes Mr. Breda, yes Dr. Delli Colli, yes

Discussion and Decision: July 17, 2023 meeting minutes

The draft minutes were reviewed and discussed.

Dr. Delli Colli made a motion to accept the June 5, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.

Mr. Breda seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion.

The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Sangrey, yes Mr. Breda, yes Dr. Delli Colli, yes

Discussion and Decision: Appoint Parivallal Thillaigovindan as Tobacco Compliance Agent for the Natick Board of Health.

Also Present: Mr. Parivallal Thillaigovindan

Mr. Boudreau introduced Mr. Thillaigovindan who provided his background education and described his role regarding tobacco compliance for the 16 Towns/Cities that are participants in the Tobacco Control Program for MetroWest District.

The Framingham Board of Health is the fiscal agent and Mr. Thillaigovindan has office space there.

Mr. Thillaigovindan answered questions regarding the process for compliance inspections.

Mr. Breda made a motion to appoint Parivallal Thillaigovindan as a Tobacco Agent for the Natick Board of Health.

Ms. Sangrey seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion.

The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Sangrey, yes Mr. Breda, yes Dr. Delli Colli, yes

Discussion and Decision: Request for a Variance from Natick Board of Health Regulation Chapter 6 to keep a rooster on the premises at 12 Brook Street tabled from the July 17, 2023 meeting.

Also present: Mr. James Cosimini

Mr. Boudreau reminded the Board that on June 29, 2023 an order letter to remove the rooster from the property as soon as possible but no more than thirty (30) days after receipt of the letter was sent and that they tabled the variance decision at their last meeting.

Also at that meeting, Mr. Cosimini told the Board he would submit an application to keep livestock because he also has chickens on this property.

Mr. Boudreau said an application was not submitted.

Mr. Cosimini asked for a few days of grace and he is sorry he is not prepared with an application, but that he did get approvals from all the abutters within 500 feet of the property.

Mr. Cosimini continued describing why the variance should be granted and explaining his future plans for livestock.

Mr. Boudreau stated the focus for this meeting is on the order to remove the rooster.

The Board discussed the request.

Mr. Breda made a motion to deny the variance request and to enforce the order as written in the June 29, 2023 letter to remove the rooster.

Dr. Delli Colli seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion.

The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Sangrey, yes Mr. Breda, yes Dr. Delli Colli, yes

Discussion and Decision: request for a Variance from Natick Board of Health Regulation Chapter 6 to reduce set back of coop in order to keep 20 hens and 2 Pekin ducks

Also present: Mr. Brian Balboni

Mr. Boudreau provided the background information that resulted in this variance request.

On August 9, 2023, a site visit to 4 Gannett Road was made in response to a complaint of a rooster on the property. Mr. Balboni has since rehomed the rooster.

Additionally, on the property were 20 hens and 2 Pekin ducks for which Mr. Balboni had not applied for a permit to keep livestock. An application was provided, completed and returned to the Health Department Office in a timely manner. Abutters were notified and no letters of concern were received.

As the coop is 40 feet from a dwelling, a variance to the required 50 foot setback is requested.

There was a discussion regarding the setback request, the density of hens allowed and Regulation Chapter 6. It was noted that Chapter 6 does not specify the number of hens allowed, therefore, the Board will leave that determination to Health Department staff.

Mr. Breda made a motion to grant the variance request to reduce the required set back of the coop at 4 Gannett Rd.

Dr. Delli Colli seconded the motion.

In discussion it was reiterated the number of hens will be determined by Health Department Staff.

The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Sangrey, yes Mr. Breda, yes Dr. Delli Colli, yes

Health Department Update(s):

a. COVID-19 Update

There is a slight uptick in positivity

Researching the viability of obtaining the new vaccine for distribution

We continue to provide test kits as long as our free supply from the State will last

Researching whether or not we will be able to purchase test kits in the future

b. WNV and EEE Update

There are three positive human cases of West Nile Virus in Massachusetts, none in Natick.

Mosquito samples taken in Natick have not returned any positive mosquitos.

Continue normal precautions to prevent mosquito bites.

c. State of Emergency Assistance Family Shelter Program Updated

Very little prior notice due to security concerns and availability timing

Most in Massachusetts are of Haitian origin, arriving via Chile and Peru

Immediate needs: food, shelter, immunization

Continuing needs: food, long term shelter, school and work

Communication ongoing with participating towns

Several Natick town departments have come together to strategize

d. Residential Pool Rentals

Website called “Swimply” is being used for the short-term rental (hourly/daily) of residential swimming pools.

A cease and desist was issued to one Natick property owner and she has complied.

Verified with State that this use meets the definition of a public and/or semi-public swimming pool and therefore must comply with all pertinent local, state and federal regulations.

e. Natick Flu Clinics

Community Drive through clinic at Department of Public Works on Sat., Oct. 14, 2023.

Community Walk Through clinic at Community Senior Center on Wed., Oct. 18, 2023.

On site clinics for Natick Housing Authority at Cedar Gardens and Coolidge Gardens.

On site at Sherwood Village, Federal Housing Administration housing.

On site at Natick High School for Natick Public School Families.

f. Fall Annual Town Meeting

Starts Tuesday, October 27, 2023.

Thirty-three articles – three of which are germane to the Board of Health.

Warrant Article #9 Appropriation of Opioid settlement moneys

Warrant Article #22 Amend Zoning Bylaw Body Art Establishments in Downtown

Mixed Use (DM) Zoning District

Warrant Article #31 Safe & Fair Reproductive & Gender Affirming Care Access By-Law

- g. Three vaccines are available in some capacity at this time.
 - Seasonal Flu – clinics for Natick residents scheduled and in process
 - COVID-19 monovalent – age restricted, not supplied by State, purchase and distribution is being considered
 - RSV - Respiratory Syncytial Virus – qualifications and insurance coverage restricted
- h. Cynobacteria on Lake Cochituate – one test has cleared, second test result is pending
 - All postings with advisory were made; we cannot prohibit use, we can advise not to use
 - Working with Conservation re: addressing residential excessive use of phosphates
- i. Septic database entry is complete, thank you to Meghan Foley, a part-time seasonal employee. Ms. Foley is also supporting flu clinic preparation and execution
- j. The interview process for the vacant Environmental Health Agent position is underway.
- k. Katie Sugarman and Lizzy Chalfin have become certified to conduct Train the Trainer sessions for the suicide prevention program *QPR - Question, Persuade, and Refer*
They are now available to conduct this training as requested for Town Departments, Schools or businesses.
- l. Paper vs. plastic straws An anonymous mailing of a *New York Post* article regarding a study conducted Belgium was received at the Health Department office and forwarded to the Board.

Board Member Update(s):

Ms. Sangrey complimented the staff, especially Katie Sugarman and Natick 180, for their presence at so many local events. Their hard work is sure to have an impact.

Next Meeting(s): The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 16, 2023.

Adjourn: Mr. Breda made a motion to adjourn
Dr. Delli Colli seconded the motion.
There was no further discussion.
The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Sangrey, yes Mr. Breda, yes Dr. Delli Colli, yes

Respectfully submitted,



Peter A. Delli Colli, DMD, Clerk

Documents at this meeting:
Draft minutes June 5, 20223 and July 17, 2023
livestock documentation 12 Brook St.
livestock docuementation 4 Gannett Road