



TOWN OF YARMOUTH

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Board of
Health
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Health
Division

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES May 20, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Hillard Boskey, MD, Chair
Mary Craig, Vice Chair
Charles Holway, Clerk
Debra Bruinooge

MEMBERS ABSENT: Eric Weston

OTHERS: Bruce G. Murphy, MPH, Health Director
Maria Lopes, Director of Pupil Services - DY
Carl Lawson, Hazardous Materials Inspector

I. Public Comment – None

II. Update – Medical Requirements for enrollment in Schools

Chair Hillard Boskey asked Health Director Bruce G. Murphy to look into the schools regulations for measles vaccinations? His concern being those who come into the country with measles and those from other counties who refuse to be vaccinated. Measles are a very infectious disease and Mr. Hillard would like to know how the schools are doing in making sure kids are protected.

Director Murphy indicated to the Chair that Phil Renaud, Health Inspector got together with the schools in town on April 3, 2019 to take a look at their medical records and their regulation requirements of vaccinations. April 16, 2016 showed the schools are 99% compliance rate on their immunization requirements and records of close to 3,000 students in the town. Religious exemption being the only cases of non-compliance.

Maria Lopes, Director of Pupil Services for Dennis Yarmouth public schools. She reiterated that the conversations and follow ups she had with Director Murphy and Superintendent of Dennis Yarmouth schools. Ms. Lopes stated that there is a lead nurse in the district who keeps in contact with the nurse at each school and since conversations with the Health Director has found areas of communication in need of improvement.

There are less than 6 students per building who have written religious exemption to the immunizations on record and is updated every year. Nurses in the schools have a list of outside agencies that will come into the schools and work with families to receive their immunizations.

Chair is concerned about the Religious exemptions when in fact many known religions have no theological objections to immunizations. He realizes that if there was a true state of emergency the state could come in and take over. Ms. Lopez stated it really comes down to parent choice. The wording of the law is ambiguous allowing parents to make a conscientious decision which she believes is fear based. One fear which she is aware of is vaccinating can cause autism. The Chair stated his point in this is to educate the parents of the importance of vaccinating when they request the exemption. Ms. Lopez stated there may be options for the nurses to privately speak with these parents or to hand out educational information on the matter.

Vice Chair, Mary Craig also believes it is the parent's strong convictions against vaccination which prompts them to use the religious exemption as a means to not vaccinate their children. Vice Chair asked how the parents learn about the vaccinations needed to enroll their child in school. Ms. Lopez said that it is very clear at the time of registration what is needed. Could at the registration forum a statement stating if you have concerns about immunization please feel free to contact us for more information be added asked Vice Chair, Craig. Ms. Lopez agreed it would be beneficial and possible to add.

III. Railroad Right of Way, vegetation control

Director Murphy stated that before the Board is the current 5 year vegetation plan to control growth on the railways. This operational is put into place by the Agricultural Department which supersedes the Health Department but Board of Health does have the right to address their concerns with the use of herbicides.

Carl Lawson, Hazardous Materials Inspector updated the Board on the procedures and plans of the Railroad vegetation control program. The program is required to submit a 5 year plan of action to control the vegetation as well as submitting a yearly plan of action. The yearly is much more in-depth such as which towns will be affected and which herbicides will be used. The Board at the last submitted objected to the use of using herbicides though they need to in order to keep the tracks clean.

MOTION: (Hillard Boskey, Chair) To send letter encouraging the department to continue looking for alternatives to herbicides.

Seconded: Mary Craig, Chair

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

IV. Update – Dangers of Flavored Tobacco / Vaping Public Education Program

Director Murphy gave an over view of how things went at the public education program held at D-Y High School. There was a minimal turnout of parents and students however there were about 70 students participating in the Poster Contest describing the dangers of vaping. At this time Director Murphy ran through the power point presentation for that night. Director Murphy is hoping to show this segment of the meeting on public access T.V.

V. Tick Talk – Larry Dapsis

Director Murphy indicated that Larry Dapsis usually comes to the Board of Health meeting to give an informational session on ticks yet this year the Yarmouth Library was happy to have him hold the informational session at the library. This will be held on Saturday June 8th at 10am. They will also be handing out a free can of insect repellent containing Premethrin. They have been made available by a grant obtained by Assistant Director, Amy VonHone through the Cape Cod Hospital.

VII. Approval of Minutes – February 25, 2019

MOTION: (Mary Craig, Vice Chair) To approve minutes with the corrections that were stated

Seconded: Debra Bruinooge

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

VIII. Old/New Business

IX. Adjournment

MOTION: (Debra Bruinooge) To adjourn meeting

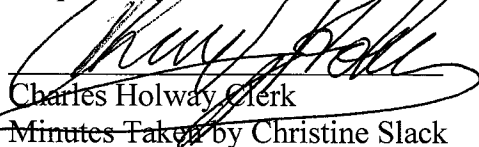
Seconded: Mary Craig

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles Holway, Clerk
Minutes Taken by Christine Slack