**Board & Staff Present:**

Dr. Robin Blair, Board Chair Laura Vlasuk, Director of Public Health

Dr. Robert Slocum, Board Member Kristine Harris, Public Health Nurse

Dr. Richard Tilson, Board Member

**\*Remote\* Board of Health Meeting Minutes**

**December 15, 2022**

1. Call to Order – 7:04pm

Meeting called to order by Dr. Blair at 7:04 pm

1. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

*Motion to approve minutes made by Dr. Slocum, seconded by Dr. Tilson. Motion passes 3-0.*

1. Molly Ettenborough Recycling and Energy Manager update:

* Molly stated that she came to the meeting because to update on Solid Waste Collection and Hauling and Disposal Contracts o Considerations:

BOH oversees solid waste hauling collection disposal and the current contract will expire in June of 2023. Though Molly is still in negotiations with Mello that have stated that the cost is increasing significantly. Molly is looking into automated collection barrels this could reduce the cost since it will decrease the man power needed to operate the trucks. Molly is also looking at a one-year extension in our current contract and will go out to bid next summer. Currently the market has taken a shift and a few of the hauler have been consumed but other entities.

* Composting options

Molly - spoke about the City’s current trash pickup and stated that the City could shift to requirements on composting to reduce the quantity of trash that is picked up.

Dr. Slocum asked about the grant for trash? Molly stated that this would be helpful in framing what barrels are purchased or for over throw bags.

Dr. Slocum stated that he is an avid proponent of composting and asked that Molly provide some information regarding composting.

Molly added that composting will reduce the quantity of trash and cut down on the smell.

* North Shore--Greening Food Service

Molly looking into eliminating plastic and Styrofoam from restaurants.

* Updating and Revising Health Dept. Solid Waste Rules and Regs.

Molly clarified for the board who is and who is not eligible for trash pickup.

Private roads and complexes over 8 units (for example Evergreen development) do not receive trash, snow removal or street light services from the city.

1. Tobacco – Sale to a person under the age of 21 violation presentation regarding on site visits

* Newbury One Stop (1 Kent Street) – 2nd Offense – APPEAL HEARING

- Michael Lowry General Manager did not appear, Ronald Beauregard, Healthy Communities Tobacco Control Program Agent present. A discussion took place around the fact that this is the second violation for this location. Location was emailed, called and sent a letter regarding this evenings meeting. Dr. Richard Tilson motioned to enforce the standing fine, Seconded Dr. Blair. Passed 2-0

1. Director’s Report

Director Vlasuk gave an update on the department.

* On August 4, 2022 The White House declared Monkeypox a public health emergency. City of Newburyport website was updated with pertinent information such as **Symptoms, Transmission, Isolation and Prevention.**
* **The Health department offered two COVID clinic that were available for all ages August 11 and November 22, 2022. Both clinics offer COVID shots and boosters for all ages in addition flu shots.**
* **The current COVID in Newburyport is 5.80% and 9% state wide. As you can see this is not the spike that we have seen in the past but the linear growth that we have been expecting. As health officials we encourage people to stay diligent in the months to come as activities move inside and the holiday gatherings begin.**
* **Kristine Harris and Laura Vlasuk have worked 10 flu clinic and Kristine Harris has conducted 11 home visits the Health department has administered 320 flu vaccines thus far.**
* Laura Vlasuk has organized a Blood Drive with the Red Cross that will be held November 30, 2022 from 11 to 6:15 at The Senior Center.
* Shell located at 75 Story Ave, received their first violation for sale to a person under the age of 21. Violation was issued for $1,000.00, this violation has been paid.
* CSO continue to occur and Laura Vlasuk has provided a sample of a CSO posing that Ms. Vlasuk, would like to turn into permanent street sign to be posted at each location set forth by the state. Board request that notification of permanent signs is posted on town web page, Health web page in addition to posting information in the Daily News now and in spring. Dr. Slocum motioned to move to update water signs to electronic scan code sign seconded by Dr. Tilson. Motion passed 3-0.
* The Health Department did receive the maximum State allotment of COVID test kits, kits are available both at the entrance to town hall and at the Health Department office located in the lower level of City Hall. I encourage everyone to come take as many as many as they wish.

Next Meeting

January 19, 2023 at 7:00 pm

1. Adjourn

*Motion to adjourn made at 7:27pm by Dr. Blair, seconded by Dr. Slocum. Motion passes 3-0.*