

Newburyport Board of Health
Minutes of July 19, 2012 Meeting

Date of Approval: 10/26/2012

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the Newburyport Board of Health was held at the Newburyport City Police Department, Green Street, Newburyport, MA on July 19, 2012. The meeting convened at 7:00 PM. Robin Blair, Chairperson presiding, Patricia McAlarney, Note Taker. Members of the Board in attendance were Dr. Robin Blair, Dr. Susan Beluk, Patricia Lawrence, Robert Bracey, Director of Public Health, Molly Ettenborough, Energy & Recycle Coordinator.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman, Robin Blair moved to approve the Minutes of the June 19, 2012 Board of Health Meeting. Member, Sue Beluk seconded the motion. Minutes of the June 19, 2012 were approved as submitted.

Request for Public Comment: None

Report from Energy and Recycle Coordinator – Molly Ettenborough:

- Molly Ettenborough noted that a monthly update of current projects was submitted to the Board.
- **Solid Waste Contract** – Extension of the City's contract with Mello Disposal for Solid Waste and Recycling will expire in June 2013. The Mayor is in support of extending the contract; however, contract details are still under consideration. Two items were specifically noted : (1) if the number of properties contracted for trash/recycle pick up increases by more than 5%, Mello may increase the service cost. This is of concern if new subdivisions are built within the city. (2) The contracted price the City is charged for diesel fuel is also subject to increase if the price per gallon exceeds \$5 (Mello would charge the City for the difference.) Member, Sue Beluk, questioned how the current price is determined. Molly stated that she will be discussing these issues further with the Mayor and will provide details to the Board as they become available. Member, Patricia Lawrence, raised a question of safety concerning the routes taken by Mello drivers when collecting trash. On multiple occasions, she has witnessed Mello trucks driving backwards down streets, through intersections (Market Street to Summer Street) in order to facilitate collections, but possibly creating a hazard. Molly Ettenborough stated that she will contact Mello to discuss this practice.
- **Compost Facility** – Molly Ettenborough reported that the opening of the New Compost Facility was delayed due to issues with the bidding process. During the bidding process it was discovered that New Ventures had left behind debris at the site that ultimately cost \$12,000 to remediate and added an additional week to the site preparation process. The current task is to locate a company that can provide needed asphalt grindings for the Compost Facility; Department of Public Services has notified Molly that they may have a contact that can provide this service. Molly reported that the Crow Lane Education and Environmental Center will be opening in approximately two weeks at the new Facility. The Center will provide trash & recycling information, as well as nature brochures and details about local trails and hikes.
- **Zero Waste Grant** – Molly explained that the Zero Waste program is going well. Approximately 100 families have agreed to participate. A new program, Curb Alert, has been initiated. The program involves residents posting online notification of items that they wish to discard and alerting the community that the items will be available curbside to be taken, free of charge. Residents are encouraged to list items first on Free Cycle and then post on Curb Alert just prior to their trash collection day. If the items are not taken, residents would purchase a Bulk Sticker to have the item collected by Mello Disposal along with their trash.

- **Recycling** - Molly Ettenborough reported that Newburyport was recently been ranked fourth in the Commonwealth for highest per capita Recycling (behind Nahant #1, Boxford #2 and Ipswich #3.)
- **Marine Debris Program** – Molly Ettenborough announced that Newburyport is offering a new program which allows commercial fisherman to bring old/found debris (fishing nets, lines, traps, etc) to the City Harbormaster for delivery to Andover where the debris will be incinerated.
- **Internships with Newburyport Energy and Recycling** – Molly Ettenborough announced that highschool and college students are welcome to contact the Department if they are interested in Internship opportunities.
- **Solarize Program** – Molly Ettenborough reported that The Solarize Newburyport Program has been well received. Member, Patricia Lawrence, suggested that the meetings and information be posted on the City Cable Channel.

Health Department – Robert Bracey, Director of Public Health

- **Draft of Greasetrap Regulations** - Robert Bracey noted that the amended draft of the Greasetrap Regulations had been sent to Board Members for review. He explained that the Regulations are intended to serve as protection of the City Infrastructure which includes the recently constructed 20 million dollar Waste Water Treatment Center. He further explained that in the past two months, two sewer back-ups occurred which could have flooded the downtown area if a complete blockage were to have occurred (one of the sewers was 60% obstructed.) The Greasetrap Regulations would allow the Health Department to require food service establishments to correct or upgrade faulty or insufficient grease traps. Since February 2012, food establishments applying for a Permit to Operate have been required by the Health Department to have upgraded greasetraps. Since grease is now deemed a Hazardous Material, it must be collected and disposed of properly. The Health Department now has oversight over the collection and transportation of grease through the Solid Waste Regulations passed last year by the Board of Health. Member, Sue Beluk, questioned what percentage of local food service establishments are likely in compliance with the proposed grease trap requirement. Robert Bracey stated that very few are likely not in compliance. Member, Sue Beluk, stated that this seems like a good opportunity to educate business owners and residents about the problems associated with grease. Robert Bracey noted that a slide presentation is being developed by the Sewer Department, Health Department and Department of Public Services; and consideration is being given as to whether it would be beneficial to distribute educational brochures to residents along with their water/sewer bills.
- **Brown Street Extension** – Robert Bracey explained that per Code, it is illegal to install 'tight tanks' in the City if Municipal water and sewer service is available; however, with certain restrictions in place, Newburyport could allow installation of these tanks while avoiding any liability for the City. Robert Bracey stated that he anticipates having a final recommendation by September, 2012 to approve or disapprove the proposal.
- **Sharps Collection Sites** – Robert Bracey announced that he is awaiting feedback from Steve Hughes from the State Health Department regarding requiring pharmacies to act as Sharps Collection Sites so to avoid any law suit from mandating pharmacies' participation. Chairman, Robin Blair, relayed a conversation that he had with the owners of Lynch Pharmacy in which they stated that they would reluctantly become a Sharps Collection Site if required to do so, by law ; however, the storage and expense associated with becoming a Collection Site would present a hardship for their business. Chairman, Robin Blair, suggested that Fire Stations may be possible Collection Sites. Member, Patricia Lawrence, noted that space may be an issue for Fire Stations, as well. Member, Sue Beluk, suggested that the Board ask the local pharmacies to consider volunteering to become Collection Sites ; adding that this may be a good opportunity for them to receive positive publicity, etc.
- **Animal Control** -

- Member, Patricia Lawrence, questioned what is done with dogs that are not claimed from the Animal Shelter (since there are currently two dogs housed there) and asked if residents could be given the opportunity to foster the dogs rather than have them sheltered. Robert Bracey stated that the dogs are kept at the Animal Shelter for 10 days and then are turned over to the MSPCA for adoption or euthanasia. Allowing residents to care for the animals on a foster basis would present a liability for the City in the event that an animal were sick or aggressive.
- **Dog Licenses** – Robert Bracey stated that the requirement that dog's licence (tags) be worn at all times, when at large, has been put into Subcommittee by the City Council. Director Bracey noted that City Ordinances must be at least as strict as the related State Regulation. This is not currently the case with Newburyport's dog license Ordinance since it does not state that tags must be worn. Member, Sue Beluk, noted that the requirement that dog tags be worn is at least included in the literature that is provided when a dog licence is obtained.
- **Sylvia Hearing** – Robert Bracey stated that the deadline is tomorrow for the Sylvia's to remove their dog from within City limits. Animal Control Officer, Matt Lipinski, is monitoring the situation.
- **Molin Property** - Member, Sue Beluk questioned whether there will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony when the fence surrounding the property comes down. Robert Bracey noted that the City has been given this property to use as a Park. It is his understanding from Andy Port, Planning & Development, that the fence around the property will be removed in one to two weeks.

Meeting Adjourned – 7:48 p.m.