

Town of Topsfield Board of Health
Meeting of Thursday, September 25, 2014
Town Hall, 8 West Common Street, Topsfield, MA 01983

Meeting Minutes

Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §§ 18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk and delivered to all Board members, a meeting of the Topsfield Board of Health, Thursday, September 25, 2014 at 7:30 pm in the Conference Room of Topsfield Town Hall.

Board of Health Members present: Chairman William Hunt ESQ; Clerk Sheryl Knutsen RN; Vincent Guerra MD; Gerald Topping PE; John Coulon RS, Health Agent; Richard Gandt, Selectman; Susan Winslow, Minutes Secretary; Dr. Tom Grady; Dr. James Collins; Dr. Matthew Knight; George Hall, Town Moderator; Charles Johnson PE.

With a quorum present, Mr. Hunt called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

ABBREVIATIONS:

CDC: Center for Disease Control
DEP: Department of Environmental Protection
DPH: Department of Public Health
EEE: Eastern Equine Encephalitis
EDS: Emergency Dispensing Site
EP: Emergency Preparedness
EPA: Environmental Protection Agency
ESQ: Esquire
LSAC: Local State Advisory Committee
MAHB: Massachusetts Association of Health Boards
MDPH: Massachusetts Department of Public Health
MHOA: Massachusetts Health Officers Association
MRC: Medical Reserve Corps
NEMMC: Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control
PE: Professional Engineer
PHEP: Public Health Emergency Preparedness
RN: Registered Nurse
RS: Registered Sanitarian
TBOH: Topsfield Board of Health
TRMRC: Topsfield Regional Medical Reserve Corps
US: United States
WNV: West Nile Virus

Public Information
Agenda

APPOINTMENTS:

18 Summer Street: Variance Request

Charles Johnson PE of C.G. Johnson Engineering, Inc., 203 Willow Street, Hamilton, MA presented two options for the septic repair at 18 Summer Street. He informed the Board that Option 2 represented the

choice they are going to use, including a request for Local Upgrade Approval regarding 310 CMR 15.227(5) and 15.405(1)(j) to allow Septic Tank and Waterloo Biofilter to have Rubber Boots.

A discussion ensued regarding this property and the benefit to using rubber boots.

VOTE: Mr. Topping made a motion to approve the Local Upgrade Approval as written in the request dated 9/22/2014. Dr. Guerra seconded and the motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Fluoride – Local Dentists

Local Dentists Dr. James Collins, Dr. Matthew Knight and Dr. Tom Grady appeared before the Board to voice their opposition to the recent movement by Jeffy Demeter to remove supplemental Fluoride in the public drinking water in Topsfield. They met with the Board in preparation for the Special Town Meeting on September 30, 2014, spearheaded by Ms. Demeter, who collected the requisite number of signatures on a petition to call for the Special Town Meeting in relation to Fluoride.

Dr. Collins gave the Board a history of Fluoride use in the United States. Dr. Grady told the Board that the use of Fluoride in public drinking water to combat tooth decay is considered one of the ten most successful programs in the history of Public Health. The dentists presented the Board with scientific and anecdotal evidence that Fluoride in safe amounts is beneficial to the prevention of tooth decay. They presented the Board with 'Table 6. National and International Organizations that Recognize the Public Health Benefits of Community Water Fluoridation for Preventing Dental Decay,' a list of organizations that endorse the use of Fluoride to prevent tooth decay including the World Health Organization and the CDC. Dr. Collins noted that he has seen three generations of dental patients, and he described his firsthand evidence that the use of Fluoride has resulted in a drastic reduction in the number of dental cavities in the current generation. Mr. Gandt reminded the Board the issue before the public at the Special Town Meeting is whether or not to accept the recommendation of the Topsfield Finance Committee to recommend a 5-member panel to study the Fluoride issue and present findings at the Annual Town Meeting in the spring of 2015. Town Moderator, Mr. George Hall outlined the procedure at a Special Town Meeting. The Board thanked Dr. Collins, Dr. Knight and Dr. Grady for appearing at the Board of Health Meeting.

VOTE: Mr. Topping made a motion to support the Topsfield Water Commission's current practice of supplemental Fluoridation to Topsfield public drinking water because Fluoride has a proven public health benefit. Dr. Guerra seconded and the motion carried in a unanimous vote.

It was determined that Mr. Hunt will attend the Special Town Meeting on September 30, 2014, to address the assembly as the Topsfield Board of Health representative. Board Members were encouraged to attend.

FEES AND MINUTES:

The Board postponed action on these items to the November meeting.

HEALTH AGENT REPORT:

Mr. Coulon addressed the Board to update them on recent activities:

- Topsfield Fair Food Vendor Orientation will be held on Wednesday and Thursday nights prior to the opening of the Fair on October 3, 2014. The third tight tank was installed at the Fairgrounds this past summer, and will vastly improve the storage and disposal of gray water at the fair.

- Emergency Preparedness: Topsfield continues to have a high level of compliance. Mr. Coulon reported that he and Ms. Knutsen attended the LSAC meeting on September 22, 2014. He reported that there will be a 5-member Coordinating Committee in the future. The MRC has invited members to an Emergency Preparedness event at Otis Air Force Base on October 25, 2014. 150 – 250 volunteer 'victims' are needed.

•EEE Mr. Coulon reported that there has been one positive finding of EEE in a bird biting species of mosquito in a trap in Topsfield during the month of September. There have been no positive findings for WNV in Topsfield, but there was one positive hit in Lynn. Mr. Coulon reported that Boxford closed the playing fields in response to the finding in Topsfield, but Topsfield did not close fields or conduct spraying. This is due to the fact that the mosquito in question is a bird biting species and manufacturer's directions do not allow for the spraying of adulticide in the meteorological conditions existing in Topsfield at the time of the finding (must be sprayed ½ hour after dusk to ½ hour before dawn at which time the wind must be between 3 mph and 15 mph, the temperature must be above 55° and there must be no rain).

VOTE: Mr. Topping made a motion to adjourn at 10:00 pm. Ms. Knutsen seconded and the motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Winslow, Minutes Secretary