

**Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2013**

Members Present:

Bea Brunkhorst, Co-Chair
Sarah Thompson
Kevin Wormstead
Tom Kinzer, Co-Chair

Staff Present:

Heidi Porter, Director
Mary Firestone, Recording Secretary

Member Absent:

Anita Raj

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 P.M. Mr. Kinzer chaired.

Minutes:

Dr. Brunkhorst moved to accept the minutes of the January 7, 2013, Board of Health meeting, as amended. Ms. Thompson seconded the motion. Vote count: 4-0

Revised rDNA Regulation --- Review and Vote: Ms. Porter said that she has been in discussions with a consultant in Cambridge. He has agreed to meet with Board members or the sub-committee and may attend a public hearing called to review the revised regulation. Funds are available for the consultation. Bedford regulations do not require a hearing for the proposed regulation but it is good practice to have such hearings. Companies want to come into a community with regulations in place. The hearing will probably not be held before April and possibly in May. Definitions were discussed at length.

Board of Health Action Items --- Old and New Business:

Ms. Porter did complete the Action Item requested at the January meeting.

Liaison Assignments:

Mr. Wormstead said that he was unable to attend the Youth and Family Services meeting in January. He did receive the minutes of the minutes of that meeting and reported on several items: (1) The population of families-in-transition at the Bedford Plaza is smaller; (2) Arrangements have been made for resumption of Veterans' Services.

Ms. Porter attended the Youth Task Force meeting; funding of activities at The Corner was discussed, the issue being whether funding should come from the budget or from a revolving fund.

Ms. Porter also attended the meeting on Healthy Bedford and Safe Routes to School. She said that since the Newtown tragedy, there has been a safety committee meeting to evaluate many school safety items including a shift from arrangements for safe drop-offs which also allows for public safety vehicles to readily access the schools; Ms. Thompson suggested a safety feature may include having parents on the school buses.

Mr. Kinzer reported on the meeting of the Fiscal Planning and Coordinating Committee. He said that there is concern about setting funds aside for unfunded liabilities, e.g., pensions. There are new reporting rules. Previously the needed set-aside was estimated at \$72 million for current employees; due to changes, the current estimate is \$40 million. The town recently received a AAA rating from Standard and Poors. The purchase of the new fire truck for \$800,000 will be bonded. An opinion was voiced that the town needs to allocate more funds to capital improvement. Ms. Porter said that she attended the January 31 Fin Com meeting, along with Mr. Kinzer and Dr. Brunkhorst and presented the Board of Health budget; she said that there is a need to get discussions under way for transfer of the school nurses to the School Department. New evaluation criteria for all school employees will include the nurses.

Director's Report:

Ms. Porter said that a Department of Public Health Community Transformation Grant of \$10,000 has been received which provide for the services of Mark Fenton at a community forum.

She said that the Household Hazardous Waste Collaborative's efforts to get lower prices for hazardous waste collection were not successful; the vendor has not yet been chosen.

It has not been possible to get volunteers to commit to serve in emergencies. A state and local public health advisory committee has looked at New York public safety employee rules which build in a requirement to report for duty in emergencies even when they are not scheduled to do so. Ms. Porter said that there is a need for a separate animal shelter since some people will not leave their homes when there is no accommodation for their pets.

When a flu emergency was declared in Boston, phones were ringing off the hook and many more people came to the vaccination clinics. The number of shots given for this season, 1,125, is a new record.

The Hoarding Task Force met. The Council on Aging staff is concerned that people might not bring their problems to the COA if they fear that official action will result. In one of the current hoarding cases, an elderly member of the household, who had suffered a fall outside the home, was allowed to return home after hospitalization even though conditions at the home are not safe for him. Ms. Porter is concerned about legal issues. If non-Health staff knows about a hoarding situation and fail to report it to the Board of Health, is there liability? She said that many people in Bedford report that they should be allowed to live as they wish in their own homes. She said that public safety personnel sometimes don't understand that such situations must be attended to. The liability question is whether or not to take action in those homes. A social worker from the Edinburgh Center will be working with Bedford personnel for 200 hours to engage in the hoarding cases and provide the missing mental health component; they will also help train a potential DPH intern this summer.

Ms. Porter said that the gun take-back program has so far brought in two rifles.

Specialists from the Shriver Center will be providing training to Bedford personnel on outreach and response to Individuals Requiring Additional Assistance (IRAAs) in Bedford in an emergency.

There will be a sharps collection on April 27 and the police department will conduct a drug take-back on the same day.

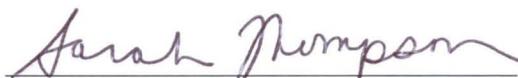
Ms. Porter asked Board members about the history of dental outreach services in Bedford schools. She has had discussions about possible dental events every six months for children. No one provides free dental service for adults and no dental practice in Bedford accepts adult MassHealth patients. She described the services of Commonwealth Mobile Dental Health which has one portable chair, accepts MassHealth, and does assessment and cleaning on site.

The next meetings of the Board will take place on March 4, April 8, May 6, and June 3, 2013.

Mr. Wormstead moved to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Thompson seconded the motion. Vote count: 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.



Bea Brunkhorst, Co-Chair



Sarah Thompson



Tom Kinzer, Co-Chair

Anita Raj



Kevin Wormstead