

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
APRIL 6, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., present were Tom Klem, Chair (TK), members Michael Wegerbauer (MW) and John G. Schuler, M. D. (JS). Also present were Julia Junghanns, (JJ) Director of Public health and Patti White, Department Assistant.

7:05 p.m. Public comments- there were none

7:06 p.m. Review and discuss recent correspondence regarding town drinking water and testing for lead and copper at schools and private residences

Ben Keefe, Facilities Director has joined the meeting this evening to discuss the recent letter to students, families and staff of the Wayland Public Schools. In an effort to reduce the potential exposure to lead in drinking water, the drinking fixtures (bubblers) in all school buildings and Children's Way are being tested. This is based on correspondence received by the school superintendent from the state recommending to do so. Lead testing in schools is required, as the schools are on a public water system; the town Water Department does this testing. DEP and EPA sent a letter and highly recommended (to the schools/superintendent) testing the bubblers for lead, so they just began a cycle to do the drinking systems (bubblers and water fountains) in all schools on a rotating basis over the 3 year period. The testing was done for lead and copper, there was no copper present. Two water bubblers (water supplied without cooling or a reservoir) one at Happy Hollow school and one at Loker school had readings over the allowable limit (action limit) for lead. Upon further review and investigation, it was discovered that these bubblers were in rooms (OT/PT rooms -not classrooms) that did not have frequent use. The pipes to these bubblers were flushed, then retested and the results came back well below the limit.

A letter was sent to inform the residents, and advise them of the new program in place (also advised all department heads of the town). Based on this situation, one of the options to address the issue is to flush water lines. The schools water lines will be flushed after inactivity (vacations, etc.,) the seldom used bubblers will be flushed weekly. Each school will have a binder with checkoff sheets to keep track of the flushing dates and the dates of testing. There are probably only 2-3 seldom used bubblers in each school that are noted and will be flushed weekly. JS: It might be a good time to check in August when the pipes are flushed before the kids come back. BK: We will flush all schools after the April school vacation; it just takes 15 minutes, just run the water.

This most recent round of testing was on approximately 1/3rd of the water systems in each school building including Children's Way, the High School building is new, so there is no real concern there.

JS: at our last meeting the Water Superintendent came to talk about the water testing and informed the Board that the Town received funding from state to replacing the lead gooseneck elbows from water pipes from homes, and they will be rechecking to be sure that all homes have been checked. There are old buildings in town(with old pipes); the schools are old; Claypitt, Loker, Happy Hollow elementary schools and the Middle School (High School is new). BK: I don't know if this was done at the schools, I can check with the water dept., and see if the lead goose necks have been replaced at the school buildings. MW: Don Millett (Water Superintendent) has a list of the areas of town where there are some homes that may not have been corrected.

JS: how is the testing done? BK: There is a protocol that is followed and water samples are sent out to a lab, the EPA website, has information on how to identify if there are lead based pipes present. The Town and School Dept. received a very positive response to the letter, just a few calls and emails, the residents were most appreciative of being informed.

JS: has the Town Building been checked? BK: this building is not a school, Children's Way is a pre-school and their drinking water fixtures were checked, JJ: this is an older building, as well as the library, so old pipes. Water is tested by Water Department but not all fixtures as that is what Dep is asking for schools specifically to do the additional testing.

MW: the town tests the drinking water more often than required. After the problems with water in Flint Michigan, Don Millett composed the Wayland DPW water division lead and copper statement.

TK: thank you and Don Millett, and Ben this was handled well and the information was promptly distributed to residents.

7:25 p.m. **Review of documents for public awareness on concussions**

JJ: we are looking to provide easy to read information for children and parents regarding concussions (public awareness documents).

These documents being reviewed were created by Ruth Mori, R.N.,B.S.N, (Public Health Nurse/School Nurse Leader, Amy Schoeff, RN. Community Health Nurse and Dr. Roitfarb- Applicant for School Physician.

JS: Do all the trainers and coaches understand that they need to be aware and be sure these protocols are being followed? TK: can we have a local contact on the paperwork? (for additional information you may contact...) I will talk to Ruth about this and we can edit the document. MW: is this going on the website? Is this a link to the training program I had sent? JJ: we will add the document to the website and check into providing the link. We would like the information to be easy to find.

JS: Can these go on the school athletics website? JJ: I have Ruth look into this, that is a school website. MW: There is concussion info on the High School athletic website, but nothing on the Middle school. TK: thank you Mike W. for the information you provided on the training. JS: we should get this out to the groups that use the fields. JJ: we will reach out to the Recreation Director. She was on board to assist with providing this information and they are in contact with groups that use town fields and town gyms (they reserve the fields for use).

7:30 p.m. **Artificial turf discussion**

TK: John, can you explain what a California field is? JS: The company I contacted in Georgia, makes a artificial turf that is on a thick based mat. Because of the thickness of the mat and the elasticity of it, loose fill (crumb rubber) is not required, but it is a much more expensive product.

MW: Is this plastic material any better than what we have? JS: Crumb rubber contains volatile chemicals and they contain traces of heavy metals. The plastic grass blades can potentially contain metals, but this is less of an issue than the loose crumb rubber product. There is no hard evidence regarding problems with the crumb rubber product, but there have been concerns raised. Artificial turf fields can last 10 to 12 years, then there is a need to replace. Mike Lindeman (DPW) said they received a

bag of crumb rubber used to fill the current artificial field when the it was constructed, they have not refilled the filed since it was installed.

JS: There are many health concerns, the Town of Medfield is concerned as we recently read an article in the paper. There are studies being talked about at the upcoming town meeting for the consideration of a new playing field at the 195 Main Street town property. There should be comments made by the Board of Health regarding the option to have different infill other than crumb rubber. JJ: if the item is passed we can recommend they investigate other options for the type of field to be constructed.

JS: should we bring up an amendment that they study and evaluate crumb rubber substitutes? We would like to see the issue to be studied and decide what is best. Do recommend or place an amendment.

MW: ask for a collaboration with BOH to work with them consult and collaborate with BOH on the selection of the type of turf? JS: we don't know that we are focused in the direction that we are- health related.

MW: grass fields are ½ the cost of artificial, but they do have a larger cost to maintain. Kids are having trouble getting practice time, they cannot use the grass fields right now and the seasons are starting.

TK: will review the town meeting process for amendments.

Town Meeting Article is: to determine to appropriate money for feasibility study for multifunctional rectangular grass or artificial field. At 195 and 207 Main street.

MW: as part of the study, we would like the study to include a review of the alternatives to crumb rubber and collaborate and share the information with the Board of Health. The coconut product might be a problem for nut allergies? The early fields used a sand/silica product but was no longer used, as it was considered a hard product, and the crumb rubber was brought in as a substitute.

TK: the Ga Co makes that, CA field, are there other companies? JS: I just called only the one company.

8:15 p.m. Minutes of March 23, 2016, there are a few small edits

TK: motion to accept as amended second MW all in favor 3-0

Topics not expected by Director prior to the meeting.

JJ: mentioned an email from M. Lowery in regard to the Dudley Pond herbicide treatment. There is a big problem at the pond with weeds and they want to do treatment. They have copied BoH on the NOI, if BoH has comments to provide to them. Will review the herbicides planned to be used and protocols/process/posting of signs, etc.

Conservation cluster off Rice Road near Snake Brook (wetlands), 1) traditional culdesac subdivision 2) conservation cluster there would be a part of the property donated to conservation for public use 3) possibly needing a planning board special permit (different process)

Soil testing has not yet been done, so that has a lot to do with how the property is to be developed.

Meetings for May: May 4th , May 18th , there will be a discussion regarding possible change of meeting days.

8:30 p.m. TK: motion to adjourn

Respectfully submitted

Patti White
Department Assistant
040616 minutes
Approved 051816