



TOWN OF SHREWSBURY

Richard D. Carney Municipal Office Building
100 Maple Avenue
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545-5398

DATE: May 11, 2016
TO: Board of Health
FROM: Kerry Stockwell, Administrative Assistant
SUBJECT: Board of Health Meeting Minutes
ATTENDANCE: Stephen Vigeant, Jordan Rubin, Maria Narducci
ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Philip Leger – Worcester Department of Public Health (WDPH)
Koby Owsu-Ansah – Worcester Department of Public Health (WDPH)
Cassandra Andersen – Worcester Department of Public Health (WDPH)
Kristen Las – Assistant Town Manager
Kerry Stockwell – Administrative Assistant, Board of Health
AnnaMaria Chittim – Shrewsbury Youth & Family Services, Inc. (SYFS)
Missy Hollenback – 38 Stoney Hill Road, Shrewsbury
Brian Moss – 16 Ruthen Circle, Shrewsbury
April Prince – 2 Tory Drive, Shrewsbury
Dale Schaezke – 64 Barnard Street, Shrewsbury
Kathleen and Kaleigh Keohane – 8 Bracken Road, Shrewsbury

AGENDA

- 1. Call to order.** The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Stephen Vigeant.
- 2. Approval of Minutes.** Jordan Rubin made a motion to accept the Meeting Minutes from the March 30, 2016 Board of Health meeting, seconded by Maria Narducci. Approved 3-0.
- 3. Possible Ban on Plastics Bags** – Missy Hollenback, Precinct 9, 38 Stoney Hill Road, Shrewsbury came before the Board with a proposal to ban plastic bags. Plastic bags create litter and are harmful to the environment. Trash collects water which become ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes. The Board was given a copy of her proposal along with other supporting documentation to include background information from the Sierra Club, Boston, Massachusetts.

Question: Are there towns that already have this type of ban?

Answer: Yes.

Question: How does the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee feel about this possible ban?

Answer: The Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee feel that this is a state issue.

Question: Would this ban impose additional work for the Health Department?

Answer: Yes. Phil Leger had a brief discussion with Missy about the proposed ban. The ban would fall on the Health Department for both educating and the enforcement piece.

Currently, the penalty section has no reference to non-criminal exposition, which is key. What happens when someone doesn't comply with the penalty part? What would be the next step? Right now, there isn't another step. You'll always have people who won't pay the penalty, so there needs to be another step to identify what that next step would be. An offense is a warning, which is very important; otherwise, you'll have people say that they didn't know. You want to educate. There are two (2) parts: 1) By-law roll-out / education and 2) enforcement.

Question: Why is it so important to do a good job on education piece?

Answer: If you want a regulation to be effective, you need to do a good job of educating people on the process; otherwise, you'll be spending all your time enforcing it. The key is compliance, not punishment.

The Shrewsbury Health Department operates under an Inter-municipal Agreement (IMA) which provides certain services within the town. This ban is not included in the IMA for next year and that would have to be factored in. The volume of complaints would spike and the Health Department would have to absorb those additional complaints which cannot be a top priority. Shrewsbury has approximately two hundred (200) food establishments alone that would be affected by this ban. Koby Owusu-Ansah is out in the field on a regular basis but if there was a specific complaint with regards to plastic bags, that complaint might have to be tabled to the following week's inspections. The Health Department needs the ability to prioritize their inspections based on the nature of the complaint.

If you want to create a by-law, you need to be able to enforce it, back it up, and implement a strong educational program to include each individual store. Phil would be looking for someone to help formulate and educate. Missy is part of Shrewsbury Recycles that helps educate people on recycling practices. She has participated in events such as Arbor/Earth Day and the Farmers Market which provides an opportunity to educate residents on the topic. A fifty dollar (\$50.00) fine right out of the gate, doesn't really support what you are trying to accomplish.

Question: Going back to the IMA. This additional Health Department service currently doesn't cover this year?

Answer: No. The IMA would have to be re-opened to negotiate fees and services.

Question: What happens if a store doesn't pay the fine? What would the escalation process look like?

Answer: The process would work similar to paying a parking ticket. If the store doesn't pay a fine or taxes, then their permit wouldn't be issued. The town experiencing more and more push back and it's important to be prepared for those situations. One way to avoid resistance, would be to provide an incentive for stores by rewarding them in doing a good job. Shrewsbury Recycles could provide a plug for their business by praising them on Facebook and other social media outlets.

Phil Leger mentioned that we'd need to engage the corporate entity of some of these establishments, as the communication needs to be channeled to the regional stores. We need to ensure that everyone is onboard at the corporate level as opposed to franchises and the smaller mom and pop operated stores. Each different type of store will have different responses. Education of the process must be at the forefront.

Question: Is the IMA about to be renewed?

Answer: Yes. The IMA will be revisited in the fall to review the Animal Inspector piece.

If this ban were to pass, the implementation date would be July 1, 2017. Right now, the Health Department is concentrating on semi-public swimming pool, recreational camps for children, bathing beach inspections, and juggling staff vacation. These items are the current priorities. If the roll-out date was July 1, 2016, this effort would not be doable. The Board noted at this time, that this discussion was for information purposes only for both the Board of Health and the Health Department.

Missy asked if the Board of Health could attend the Town Meeting on May 16, 2016. Maria Narducci is in support of the ban of plastic bags. Jordan Rubin is not in support of it due to some of the concerns that Phil Leger touched upon with the possibility of having to renegotiate the IMA. Stephen Vigeant is not in support of the ban. He feels that this issue should be addressed at the state level, as different towns have different policies.

The Board of Health has one (1) member in support of the ban and two (2) members not in support of the ban.

Question: Is anyone in the audience allowed to make a comment?

Answer: The Board made it clear that this was not a Public Hearing but would allow a brief comment.

Brian Moss of 16 Ruthen Circle, Shrewsbury, wanted to express his support for the plastic bag ban. Plastic bags end up in waterways which eventually makes their way into the ocean. When plastic bags breakdown, the fragments never go away. Fish eat the particles and absorb toxins which humans end up consuming. He just wanted the citizens to have a stake in the decision-making. He feels this affects families and public health.

4. Substance abuse prevention/mental health grants, projects happening and available to the Alliance.

Cassandra Andersen, WDPH and Anna, Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services (SYFS) came before the Board to share some information about Substance Abuse Programs in Shrewsbury.

Cassandra will speak on behalf of the Central Mass Regional Public Health Alliance (CMRPHA) and Anna will speak about the coalition.

Through the Alliance, funding has been received from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) Substance Abuse Services to support the prevention of youth substance abuse as well as overdose prevention. Two (2) grants have been received: 1) Substance Abuse Prevention Program and 2) Opioid Substance Abuse Program. This funding will allow them to come to Shrewsbury and work with the town and schools and think about policies that can be put into place, organize events/programs and think about what curriculum can be instituted.

In the past few years, Cassandra and SYFS has worked with the town and the schools to brainstorm on how to get more people involved. Last year, a coalition was formed. The coalition has done a great job. SYFS has applied for additional funding to support the effort. The grant would bring in a full-time staff person for Shrewsbury.

Anna introduced herself. She recently backfilled the Executive Director position at SYFS. In working with Cassandra and the WDPH, she realizes that there is a huge issue with drug use and overdose in the greater commonwealth area. Collectively, they are trying to outline prevention, education, and provide a support mechanism for the families that may have experienced a loss. There are many individuals struggling with this issue at home. The question is: How can we step in and assist with prevention?

The Shrewsbury community is wonderful! Schools, nurses, and people from faith-based organizations, etc. are getting involved with this problem. Trying to get the youth involved as well. The group has been meeting and initiated its first event which was the Community Forum held last month at the Shrewsbury High School. Parents and families were invited to get a general sense of what the problem is and how we can all band together. The panel consisted of a person in recovery, a parent of an addicted child, the police department, State Representative Hannah Kane, and Senator Michael Moore to discuss state-level legislation around opioid addiction and education. The turnout yielded approximately two hundred and fifty (250) individuals. That was an impressive number and it has fueled additional conversation. A number of people asked how they could get involved.

Right now, we're waiting to hear about the grant that would help fund a position that can spearhead these activities and have panels of experts speak. In the meantime, another event will be held in October. It's a film about the Wahlberg family. They will conduct two (2) presentations at the Oak Middle School and the Shrewsbury High School with a parent event in the evening. We'll have a table at the Spirit of Shrewsbury in September. A website and Facebook page have also been created.

Cassandra would like input from the Board of Health to include recommendations on who might be interested in joining the effort, planning events/programs/policies, etc.

5. 285 Boston Turnpike (Commercial space) - Plumbing Variance request for no bathroom in shed.

At the March 30, 2016 Board of Health meeting, the Board had no opposition to the variance request. The same day, the Plumbing Board had not approved the variance. Phil Leger mentioned to the Board that they were also denied by the Architectural Access Board (AAB) Board for a variance. At this time, the applicant

must start the process again.

6. Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance (CMRPHA) Update

- a. Personnel update:
 - i. Alexis Travis, PhD, has been hired as the Chief of Community Health.
 - ii. Nikki Nixon, MS, has been hired as the Epidemiologist.
 - iii. Julie VanArsdalen was promoted to Regional Public Health Coordinator.
- b. The Alliance Survey is being extended another week. Please participate, if you haven't done so already.
- c. The next Quarterly Alliance Meeting will be held in Shrewsbury on June 15, 2016 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Kristen Las will be in attendance.
- d. IMA's: Shrewsbury and Millbury will be signing their IMAs in the next month or so for three (3) year terms.
- e. A defined working space has been designated at the Department of Public Health on Meade Street in Worcester to house meetings and educational materials for Regional Public Health staff.
- f. Tobacco compliance checks have been completed for all towns.
- g. 2nd Annual Health & Medical Emergency Preparedness Conference: Terrorism and Its Impacts on Public Health and Healthcare will take place at Holy Cross College on May 16, 2016. This event is Free of Charge.
- h. Active Shooter Training. A regional training for local boards of health or other town staff that are part of emergency planning in their town. The Town of Grafton hosted this training on April 15, 2016 for approximately forty (40) participants. Real-life training exercises took place in the building. There were several effective techniques demonstrated with a focus on the need to be cognizant of your environment.
- i. Koby Owusu-Ansah, Regional Public Health Specialist update:
 - i. Food Establishments:

Thirty five (35) total inspections: Twenty eight (28) routine inspections. Five (5) complaint inspections. The five (5) that had food complaints were: Burger King, Imperial Buffet, Chipotle, Moe's Southwest Grill, and Price Chopper. Working closely with Chipotle. If a customer contacts Chipotle directly about an issue, the Manager contacts the Health Department to report it and vice versa.
 - ii. Temporary Food event: Multiple food vendors were inspected and permitted for the Earth/Arbor Day and Farmers Market event held on April 22, 2016. It was a huge success.
 - iii. Notable nuisance complaints:
 1. 36 Heath Road. Several complaints from neighbors regarding accumulation of trash. Owner has moved some of the items to the rear of the property. The process has been slow but progress has been made. The Health Department will continue to monitor.
 2. 115 Worthington Avenue. Original complaint was filed by the rubbish hauler due to improper disposal of furniture. The Health Department is working with the owner for clean-up.
 3. 31 Lakeview. Progress has been made for the clean-up of assorted debris. A dumpster is on-site and a reinspection will take place this week.
 4. 43 Janet Circle. Occupants moved out and left behind their refuse. The Health Department is working with the owner for proper clean-up. A reinspection will take

place this week.

5. 721 Main Street. The Health Department issued an order letter for the emptying of an overflowing dumpster.

iv. Housing complaints:

1. 14 Edgemere Boulevard. A wellness check revealed unsanitary living conditions. The Health Department is working with the owner for proper clean-up and the occupant has since moved out.
2. 17 Ridgeland. A few housing issues need to be addressed. The Health Department has been in touch with the owner. Owner is currently overseas but will address issues upon their return later this month.
3. 145 Clinton Street. There are multiple housing issues to be addressed. The Health Department is working with the occupant, as the owner is out of the country.

- v. Lakeway Commons Update: Within the last week, multiple demolition permit applications have been applied for through the Building Department. On the Health Department side, there will be five (5) new food establishments to include Whole Foods, Burton's Grill, and Starbucks to name a few. The complex will also have a semi-public swimming pool. The pool area was redesigned to comply with the state law for fencing. Phil Leger has been attending construction meetings to keep a pulse on items such as dust control, noise, etc. The project will take about two (2) years to complete. Phil will provide periodic updates.

7. **Next meeting.** To be held on June 29, 2016 at 8:30 a.m., in the New Selectmen's Room.

8. **Adjourn.** Maria Narducci left before the meeting adjourned. Jordan Rubin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 a.m., seconded by Stephen Vigeant. Unanimously approved 2-0.

Correspondence:

- Monthly CMRPHA Board of Health Updates – May 2016
- Missy Hollenback's hand-outs regarding plastic bag ban