



## TOWN OF SHREWSBURY

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

DATE: August 30, 2019  
TO: Board of Health  
FROM: Kerry Stockwell, Administrative Assistant  
SUBJECT: Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
ATTENDANCE: Stephen Vigeant, Jennie Fishman, George Abraham

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Karyn Clark – Central MA Regional Public Health Alliance (CMRPHA)  
Joshua Niroula – CMRPHA  
Kristen Las – Assistant Town Manager  
DJ Wilson – Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA)  
Dan Connelly – 52 Wave Avenue, Wakefield  
Cecelia (Cece) Doucette – 31 Fatima Drive, Ashland  
Naomi Halpern – 131 Stoney Hill Road, Shrewsbury  
Bryan Moss – 16 Ruthen Circle, Shrewsbury  
Hannah Kane, State Representative – 32 Main Circle, Shrewsbury  
Mary Ellen and Jenna Merendino – 15 Berkshire Road, Shrewsbury  
J. B.

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Phil Leger and Abby Graham - CMRPHA

### AGENDA

1. **Call to order.** The meeting was called to order at 8:04 a.m. by Stephen Vigeant.
2. **Introduction of new Board of Health member** – Dr. George Abraham.  
Steve Vigeant introduced and welcomed Dr. George Abraham as a new Board of Health member replacing Dr. Maria Narducci.
3. **Review and Act on the following revision to the current Tobacco Regulations:**
  - a. Tobacco Flavor Restriction  
Steve Vigeant stated that the Board of Health held a Public Hearing on July 26, 2019 regarding the above agenda item. Much testimony was received and taken under advisement. He thinks it's a good public health policy to move forward with restricting the sale of tobacco flavored products to adult-only establishments with the caveat of excluding menthol, mint, and wintergreen due to unsettled litigation. All Board of Health members were in agreement.

George Abraham made a motion to restrict the sale of tobacco flavored products to adult-only establishments excluding menthol, mint, and wintergreen. Seconded by Jennie Fishman. Unanimously approved 3 – 0.

Karyn Clark made a recommendation to allow time for the retailers to adjust to the new policy. All of the Board of Health members were in agreement with an effective date of January 1, 2020

George Abraham made a motion to make the regulations effective January 1, 2020. Seconded by

**4. Review and approval of Minutes from the July 26, 2019 Board of Health meeting.**

Jennie Fishman made a motion to accept the Meeting Minutes from the July 26, 2019 Board of Health meeting. Seconded by George Abraham. Unanimously approved 3-0.

**5. Review and approval of Minutes from the July 26, 2019 Board of Health Public Hearing.**

Jennie Fishman made a motion to accept the Meeting Minutes from the July 26, 2019 Board of Health Public Hearing. Seconded by George Abraham. Unanimously approved 3-0.

**6. Review and discuss Wireless Technology and Public Health – requested by Bryan Moss, 16 Ruthen Circle, Shrewsbury.**

Bryan Moss, thanked the Board for the opportunity to discuss this topic. Over three (3) years ago, Bryan attended a listening session with representation of the Attorney General's Office. One of the topics discussed was health risks as it relates to wireless technology / use of wireless devices such as laptops, cell phones, etc. The information he received left a profound impact on him. Once he realized there was an issue, he couldn't look the other way. With the anticipation of a newly constructed Beal Elementary School, he thought this would be an opportune time to find out what can be done to protect the children against harmful effects of Electromagnetic Fields (EMF's).

At this time, Bryan turned over the discussion to Cece Doucette who accompanied him. Cece introduced herself to the Board. She has facilitated safe technology practices in schools and has worked to introduce legislation to address wireless radiation and its effects on public health. In addition, she worked with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) to develop public health fact sheets.

She first learned that we need to be aware of risks with wireless technology. After doing investigative research, she found thousands of studies from all over the globe indicating that wireless technology is hazardous. Many people have begun to realize that they are experiencing health conditions from exposure to microwave radiation. Some of these conditions are anxiety, depression, behavioral issues, nose bleeds, skin rashes, and headaches. The wireless technology is everywhere including our schools. There is no training on technology safety but we need it.

Our cell phones run off 3G and 4G (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Generation) which are almost maxed out. 5G is the newest technology and the industry is looking to add to the current infrastructure. Antennas are starting to pop up around the neighborhoods. Anyone could wake up and find a cell tower outside of their window. She learned that the body never gets a break from the constant pulsing of toxic microwave radiation. Currently, there is no safety testing. Cece's home is completely hard-wired. She and her family plug everything into an Ethernet cable, turns off the Bluetooth, and the wireless router. There are some strategies in protecting yourself against this toxic radiation. We need to take action now to protect the children. She took out a hand-held device which measures radio frequency. The meter read high levels of electromagnetic radiation which indicates a very toxic environment. She feels the schools should all be hard-wired. Before she left the meeting, she provided the Board with some printed materials and hopes that they take this seriously to protect the public.

Question: Are there any articles that the Board of Health could look at?

Answer: Additional information will be emailed for the Board to review.

**7. Review and Act on the Report from the Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance (CMRPHA).**

Phil Leger and Abby Graham were not in attendance. Karyn Clark provided the Board of Health with Environmental Health data on their behalf. She didn't read the materials in the Board Packet but touched upon some main topics:

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) is hosting another conference call today at 11:00

a.m. The aerial spraying is now complete; however, there may be a recommendation for a second aerial spray. Currently, no mosquito samples have tested positive for EEE in the Town of Shrewsbury. Shrewsbury residents have been kept informed via Code Red calls, News Flashes, and via multiple social media outlets. All Town personnel, food establishments with outdoor seating and/or have senior dining facilities, and temporary food event organizers have also been kept up-to-date. They were provided with a calendar from the state with recommended cancellation times. This document is a guide for outdoor evening activities until there is a hard frost. Many communities are part of the Central MA Mosquito Control Project (CMMCP) and that has aided in preventative measures against mosquito-borne viruses. State and local public health officials will continue to monitor mosquito activity and educate the public on how to practice safety precautions.

Question: Are the schools postponing events such as football?

Answer: The Health Department as well as the Town Manager's office has kept the School Department apprised of all EEE related recommendations. All departments who organize outdoor evening activities have exercised their best judgement.

Question: Is it necessary for the Board of Health to mandate cancellations of evening activities?

Answer: No. All Board members were in agreement that the CMRPHA will continue to work with state and local public health officials in providing the most up-to-date information as it's received.

#### Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Classes

Karyn Clark will send out a report from Amelia – Public Health Nurse regarding the classes that she's been organizing for the seniors. Shrewsbury's Council on Aging (COA) held one of these classes and it was heavily attended. She will continue to work with other COA's in the public health district.

#### Environmental Health (EH)

The Board referenced the handout outlining the type and number of inspections since the last Board of Health meeting that was held on July 26, 2019.

*Temporary Food Events* – Fall is the busiest season for festivals and the like. Several upcoming events will be taking place in multiple alliance towns on the same dates.

*Nuisance Bylaw* – The Town of Shrewsbury enacted a Nuisance Bylaw about two (2) years ago. It was intended for extreme nuisance property cases but has been taken out of context as it relates to tall grass complaints. There has been a huge uptick in these types of complaints and typically it's the same properties that have been reported on. The Board may want to revisit the language and discuss possible changes to the existing document.

*Tobacco Regulations* - The Board will be provided a clean copy of the Tobacco Regulations to sign at the next scheduled Board of Health meeting. They will subsequently be posted and a communication along with those regulations will be pushed out to all of the tobacco retail establishments.

*Emergency Dispensing Site (EDS) Drill* – This is a Center for Disease Control (CDC) deliverable in the event of a pandemic or other catastrophic event. The Board of Health will be prepared on expectations and Shrewsbury's EDS Drill is slated for September 27, 2019 at the Oak Middle School.

*Artificial Turf* – Karyn Clark requested feedback from Joe Sawyer, Superintendent of Shrewsbury Public Schools to see how the first season went with the installed Artificial Turf. A subsequent update will be provided to the Board when that information is available and will be an agenda item at a future Board of Health meeting.

### **8. Review meeting schedule.**

The next Board of Health meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 27, 2019 at 8:15 a.m. in the Old Selectmen's Meeting Room.

### **6. Adjourn.**

George Abraham made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 a.m. Seconded by Jennie Fishman.

Unanimously approved 3-0.

**Referenced Material:**

- Board of Health Meeting Minutes – July 26, 2019
- Board of Health Public Hearing Meeting Minutes – July 26, 2019
- Proposed Tobacco Regulations – not dated
- Email from Bryan Moss, 16 Ruthen Circle – dated August 12, 2019
- Email from Bryan Moss, 16 Ruthen Circle – dated August 14, 2019
- CMRPHA Updates – August 2019
- Wireless Technology Materials provided by Cece Doucette, Education Services Director
  - Massachusetts Health & Human Services Meeting Wireless Technology Risks and Solutions Agenda – dated July 31, 2019
  - Do you know the cost of living in the Wireless Age? Generation Zapped Hard Card – not dated
  - Information for a Safe & Health Pregnancy Hard Card – not dated
  - Learn about Wireless Radiation Hard Card – not dated
  - Business card

Respectfully submitted,

*Kerry M. Stockwell*

Kerry M. Stockwell, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Health