TOWN OF MILTON
MEETING MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH
Monday, October 5, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Remote via Zoom

Attending:
Laura T. Richards, Esq, Chair
Mary F. Stenson, BSN, R.N., Secretary
Roxanne Musto, RN-C, MS, ANP, Member
Caroline A. Kinsella, BSN, RN, RS, Health Director, Public Health Nurse
Laura DelleChiaie, BS, Health Agent
Jean M. Peterson, Senior Administrative Clerk

1. Administrative Tasks:
The meeting was called to order at 7:18 p.m. No bills were submitted for payment. The June 25, 2020 Minutes were approved with two minor changes.

2. Public Hearing “Keeping Animals in the Town of Milton and regulation changes
The Health Director commended Health Agent Laura DelleChiaie on her tremendous efforts in researching new animal regulations for the Town of Milton, copies of which are posted on the Health Department web page. The Health Director reviewed every section of the eight pages of the newly-written proposed regulations and asked the Board to offer comments. The Board offered suggestions for edits, all of which were noted. Attorney Doug Troyer addressed some of the comments regarding the proposed Regulations and commended the Board for their excellent work. The Health Director then asked if anybody else wanted to speak to the Regulations. Residents John Barrington and Diana Hatcher offered comments. The Hearing was closed at 8:21 p.m. and continued to October 19, 2020 at 7 p.m. for the purpose of finalizing the Regulations.

3. 102 Brook Road Chicken Coop and Keeping Animals in the Town of Milton
Health Agent Laura DelleChiaie informed the Board that she had received more complaints from Sara and John Barrington, abutting neighbors to the 102 Brook Road chicken coop. Ms. DelleChiaie informed the Board that the owner of the coop, Diana Hatcher, now has five hens remaining. The question was raised as to whether the Health Department should be permitting the Wakefield Estate as the Regulations now stand.

4. 237 R Hillside Street Horse Stables and Keeping Animals in the Town of Milton
The Health Department received the new application from Attorney Marion on behalf of H&H Farm LLC with Chris and Elizabeth Stoeckle of 633 Harland Street listed as the operators of the stable. The stable had been operating under the conditions of the old permit which was issued in September, 1997. Conversations between both parties have moved forward in a positive direction. The Health Director read the application to the Board stating that the new application would need to be approved by the Board and abutters to be notified. The new permit called for various changes listed as follows:
* a reduction in the numbers of horses from 13 horses reduced to 12 one year after permit issued.
* a relocation of manure storage with manure trucked offsite and access possibly via the Stoeckle property.
* change of address from 237R Hillside Street to 633 Harland Street/
* They will manage the Barn as “At Will Employees”.
* A change in hours of operation from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. May - October and 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. from November - March.

Private rentals will not be allowed and animals are to be properly maintained. The Health Director read the manure management plan and reviewed the location plan and the pest management plan. There is to be no parking on the driveway easement and access must be via Harland Street. Attorney Troyer suggested the idea of the Stoeckles constructing a fence. He asked that the permit be granted, stating that all parties are in agreement of the operation as presented in the new application.

5. **Covid 19 updates**

The Health Director informed the Board that it is necessary for the Health Department to follow cases on weekends in order to keep them in the workflow. She added that the high numbers of close contacts increase the workload. She asked the Board for their guidance about Halloween and permitted events such as block parties and a possible Halloween gathering on the Town gazebo. Member Stenson advised against events being held on the Town gazebo and on other Town-owned property. Members Musto and Richards agreed that there is potential for an increase in spread with these types of activities. The Select Board specifically asked for the Board’s guidance on the Halloween activity being planned for young children at the gazebo. Medical Advisor, Dr. Compagnone also advised against these types of activities as they propose a major problem with contract tracing. The Board agreed that the Town should follow State guidelines on Halloween and voted against the proposed permit application submitted by Philip Boone proposing a Halloween party for toddlers on the Town Green and/or the Baron Hugo Gazebo. The Board of Health is not in support of this application as they consider this a higher risk activity which should be avoided to help prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. Additionally, the Board agrees with the CDC guidelines stating that “participating in traditional trick-or-treating where treats are handed to children who go door to door” is considered a higher risk Halloween activity. The Board unanimously supports this CDC Guideline and is recommending against trick or treating in the Milton community to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

6. **Food permit application, re-inspection fees, and COVID 19 considerations**

The Health Agent asked the Board about offering a reduction in annual food permits due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board did not agree. The Board decided to discuss late fees at a later time, depending on whether or not complaints surface.

7. **Assistant Health Director and new job description**

This Agenda item was postponed.

8. **Administrative and professional performance appraisal – Health Director**

This Agenda item was postponed to the October 19th Board meeting.
9. Old Business
   • Health Department received $2880 from 4AB for phones and tablets for Emergency preparedness.
   • Mike’s 5K to be held on October 17th at 9 a.m.; The MSAPC is participating.
   • Drug Take Back Day to be held on October 24th from 10 – 2 p.m.
   • Town-wide seasonal flu clinic to be held on October 22, from 3 – 7 p.m. at the Council on Aging.
   • Assistant B.U. professor, Patricia Lloyd Janulewicz and Jeff Carlson, a doctoral student in the Environmental Health Department are helping with COVID-19 data for the Health Department website and also with a Power Point.
   • Select Board member Mike Zullas requested a joint meeting with the Board of Health regarding an emergency order to require face coverings in commercial business zones.

The Health Director was asked if there have been complaints about lack of face coverings in commercial business zones. She stated that there have not been any complaints and that the Town of Chatham is the only town following said practice. The Board revisited this proposed emergency order which was discussed at length in their August 31st meeting. They agreed that there is still no need for this emergency order but will keep it in mind if COVID-19 numbers worsen. The Board suggested placing extra signage to stay vigilant.

10. New Business
    • New Intern, Loubeau Laguerre in the Health Department, bilingual in Haitian creole and English. Lou produced a PSA in Haitian Creole and English for MATV about COVID-19.

Member Musto inquired about RNAV letter previously drafted and updated it. Additionally, Member Richards asked the Board how they feel about the animal definition. Member Musto stated that a coop is an accessory structure and should be referred to as a building.

11. Next meeting and Adjournment
    The next meeting of the Board of Health is a Hearing scheduled for October 19, 2020. The Public Hearing is set for 7 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. with 7:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. set aside for discussion on the stable permit and the Health Director’s performance appraisal. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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Mary F. Stenson
Secretary