



TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH BOARD OF HEALTH

Town Hall Offices • 63 Main Street • Northborough, MA 01532 • PH & FAX 508-393-5009

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dilip Jain, M.D.
Lisa Bennett Johnson, DHSC, MPH, RDH, CPH, MCHES
Glenn A. French, Esq
Theresa Capobianco, Esq

TOWN: Kristin Black, PhD, MS, Health Director
Annie Bassett, Administrative Assistant
Michael Seager, Health Agent

OTHER:

The Board of Health (BOH) met on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, in The Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Chairman Glenn French.

1.Consideration of revising Northborough Board of Health Tobacco Regulation (no vote to be taken)

Michael Seager of the Northborough Health Department presented to the board recommended updates to the regulations in regard to Northborough restricting the Sale and Use of Tobacco Products and Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems, commonly known as ENDS. Our tobacco regulations were last updates in 2015. Since that time, that state has adopted flavor bans on tobacco and nicotine products for example. Our local regulations which allow us to fine for violations under non-criminal disposition are less restrictive than the state which is problematic as we as the local board of health are the enforcing authority for the state regulations. The Massachusetts Health Officer Association (MHOA) is a grant funded through DPH to provide local boards of health technical assistant around issues of tobacco and nicotine delivery product sales and environmental tobacco smoke exposure. Michael Seager has been working with their staff on the most recently draft model regulations for the local board of health. The Board discussed concern over the high cost of fines, Michael Seager expressed that we could use the terms "May / Shall" to make it consistent and fair. Glenn French recommends continuing this conversation at the next meeting, where a clean draft will be put together by Michael Seager. Glenn French is wanting to open the discussion to retailers as well at the next meeting.

2. Be Well Northborough Upcoming Events

- Joanna Graham and the Library staff have done an amazing job of pulling together many health and wellness programs and initiatives for this spring/summer.
- May 1-7 is Wellness Week. Flyers available. Partnership with Schools, Recreation, Library, Senior Center. Runs all week and individuals who complete a full activity sheet can receive a free prize at the library or their school nurse's office.
- Continuing with Free Narcan Trainings at Library – Since this program started in December, our public health nurses have trained over 218 individuals in Narcan administrations, harm reduction strategies, and distributed this life saving medication for free to all attendees.
- April 30 is the town-wide cleanup hosted by the Community Affairs Committee
- June 10 is Northborough Culture Fest Event
- June 22 is the Be Well Northborough Summer Kickoff Event
- 4 Sunscreen dispensers will be deployed at Ellsworth McAfee and Assabet Parks in the next few weeks.

3. Submission of Drug Free Community Grant Application

Health Department staff have worked diligently over recent months in developing an Action Plan for Encompass, the local substance use prevention coalition. The action planning retreat on in March and it was covered by the Community Advocate. With help of Isabella Caruso, regional epidemiologist, and Amanda Decker, contracted consultant, we applied for the Drug Free Community Program Federal Grant last week. We won't know until July or August if we will receive the grant. It is for \$625,000 over 5 years. Northborough is the fiscal host, and the grant would pay a fulltime Coordinator to help the communities of Northborough and Southborough reduce/prevent youth substance use in partnership with the schools.

4. Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) Intern for Summer

This summer we will welcome Gabriella Knox. Gabriella Knox will work on a food insecurity project in the Greater Boroughs Towns. This project will include a review of available data on food insecurity in our region, including surveys and/or interviews with food pantries, food banks, senior centers, etc. Based on this data, the intern will work with health departments in our region to develop education and awareness campaigns about the food-related resources and services in our region.

5. Encompass (Northborough/Southborough Substance Use Prevention Coalition)

This group meets monthly, and we are actively recruiting members. Over the next month we are working with Trendline Analysis to conduct youth focus groups at the schools.

This coalition is supported by a Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) grant from the state that was awarded to our fiscal host Hudson. This grant will cover exciting training. The Encompass Coalition is hosting a 1-day Positive Culture Framework (PCF) Workshop in Southborough, MA on June 28, 2023, from 8:30 am to 4 pm. The purpose of the training is to teach participants about the framework which is grounded in the latest research and takes a cultural approach to improving health and safety. Attendees will learn about three lessons from prevention research that form the foundation of the framework, models for understanding behavior change, and a cultural approach. The session will conclude with an overview of the Positive Culture Framework and its components.

Kristin Black will also be attending a 4-day training in Montana on the positive cultural framework with Hudson Health Department staff, Isabella Caruso, and a staff person from Natick. The state is covering all associated costs with this conference. The 2023 Montana Summer Institute is called the Paradox of the Positive: Preventing Harm by Promoting Health. The conference is June 20-23.

6. Town Meeting Warrant Article: Algonquin Regional High School Athletic Complex Project

This agenda item was continued from the last meeting. Kristin Black attended a joint meeting with Southborough, where Southborough voted in favor of the project. The Board discussed concerns on micro plastics, chemicals, turf, fill and pad. The Board also discussed Injury rates, and how to track such events. Northborough board of health is to work with the athletic director to develop a plan for capturing injury details and reporting that occur on the artificial turf. Northborough recommends the project given the conditions are met.

7. Any other business to come before the Board

Septic repair with abutter notification next meeting – May 9th.

On March 15, 2023, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced Massachusetts' COVID-19 public health emergency would end on May 11, 2023 (press release). This date aligns with the end of the federal public health emergency, which was announced in January (press release). Effective May 11, 2023, the Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health will discontinue individual case investigation and contact tracing for COVID-19 cases in line with the end of the federal and state public health emergency, as well as MDPH recommendations. Reminder MAHB Annual Certificate Program. Theresa Capobianco, Lisa Johnson and Michael Seager are registered for event on May 6th at Holiday Inn and Suites, Marlborough.

8. Approval of January 17th, January 30th, and March 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes

January 17th 2023, Glenn French moved to adopt the meeting minutes as recorded, Lisa Johnson Seconded, (3-0)

January 30th 2023, Glenn French moved to adopt the meeting minutes as recorded, Lisa Johnson Seconded, (3-0)

March 21st, postponed until the next meeting, Dilip Jain recommended for consistency, for Admin to use both first and last names moving forward with meeting minutes. Annie Bassett will revise the March meetings for approval at the next meeting.

9. Establish Tentative Future Meet Date: May 9th, 2023

Glenn French moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 pm, Theresa Capobianco Seconded, (3-0)