



RECEIVED

By Karen Wilber, Town Clerk's Office at 7:23 am, Oct 15, 2021

TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH BOARD OF HEALTH

Town Hall Offices • 63 Main Street • Northborough, MA 01532 • 508-393-5009 • 508-393-3130 Fax

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Glenn A. French, Esq.
Dilip Jain, M.D.
Theresa Capobianco, Esq.
Swati Sane, M.D.

TOWN: Kristin Black, Ph.D., M.S. - Health Agent
Katie Holt - Administrative Assistant to the Health Dept
Diane Legere - Health Agent/Food Inspector

OTHER: Jodie Chapin

The Board of Health met on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 via Zoom Meeting. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 by Chairman Glenn French.

6:07 - Meeting Notes Review

Dilip Jain requested that in the last paragraph, "Dr. Jain" be changed to "Dilip Jain" for consistency purposes. Glenn French moved to approve the minutes from July 13, 2021 with this one correction, Dilip Jain seconded, all in favor.

6:07 - COVID-19 Update

Kristin Black spoke about the current trends in Northborough regarding COVID cases as well as the Delta variant. Northborough has seen some breakthrough cases but they have accounted for less than half of new cases. Ms. Black reminded everyone to continue to take precautions because it appears vaccinated individuals can transmit the virus as well. Ms. Black updated the board members on testing programs within schools. Ms. Black would like to have testing capabilities for Northborough employees and asked the board members for feedback on this. Discussion continued.

Jodie Chapin (resident) asked to speak as public comment. Ms. Chapin told the board members that she had heard via the CDC website that the PCR tests have not been able to distinguish between COVID and influenza. Ms. Chapin asked how Delta variant can be detected considering this information. Ms. Black answered that PCR tests are sensitive tests and can distinguish between influenza and COVID but cannot detect Delta Variant. Ms. Black asked Ms. Chapin to forward her the information so she could look into it further.

Glenn French said that we must work with the science that we currently have. Dilip Jain and Swati Sane both stated they had not heard the information that Ms. Chapin shared. Mr. French agreed that all members would look at the information when it

was forwarded. Theresa Capobianco said she did a quick search on what Ms. Chapin shared with the board members and that a Fact Check came up as a search result. Mr. French asked Ms. Black what the latest information is regarding COVID booster shots. Ms. Black stated that the CDC has not recommended it at this time. Ms. Black asked the board members to stay tuned for more information regarding boosters.

6:38 - 59 School Street, Apt B11

Kristin Black and Diane Legere did a housing inspection at 59 School St Apt B11 on June 1, 2021 at the request of the occupant. They discovered non-working stoves, mold, fire damage, electrical issues. There had previously been a fire at this residence. Ms. Black issued an order to correct. The owner of the property, John McElhenny, requested a public hearing regarding the order to correct. Ms. Legere stated she spoke with Mr. McElhenny earlier that day and he had requested to postpone the public hearing until next month's meeting because he had not yet secured an attorney.

Glenn French moved to begin the public hearing regarding 59 School St Apt B11, Theresa Capobianco seconded this motion, all in favor. Mr. French reiterated that Mr. McElhenny has requested a postponement of the public hearing so that he can secure proper counsel. Ms. Black gave the board members a status of the situation. As of August 10, 2021, no repairs have been made to the apartment and the occupant still did not have a working stove. Ms. Black stated that the order to correct had been sent out over 60 days ago. Discussion Continued. At 6:52, Theresa Capobianco moved to close the public hearing. Glenn French seconded this motion, all in favor.

At 6:53, Dilip Jain made a motion to uphold the order to correct and to seek Town Counsel's representation with regards to fines. Theresa Capobianco seconded this motion, all in favor.

6:54 - 101 Colburn Street

Kristin Black provided background information on the property to the board members. There was fire in December 2020 at 101 Colburn Street and there was major structural damage. The board members were previously sent copies of the Orders to Correct. The original order was issued in December 2020. Ms. Black updated the board members on the current status of the property. The Building Inspector had allowed the owner to re-occupy the residence as interior concerns were addressed. There are still substantial issues on the property which is becoming a nuisance for the neighborhood. The Town (through the Building Inspector) has now become directly involved in the demolition of the garage on the property. Ms. Black wants to make sure that the Board of Health has the power to clean the property up once the garage is demolished. Ms. Black is hoping to order the abatement of public health nuisances so that the Town can put the project out to bid to make necessary repairs to the property. A discussion continued.

At 7:02, Glenn French made a motion to open the public hearing for 101 Colburn Street. Theresa Capobianco seconded this motion, all in favor. Ms. Black asked if there was any public info, and the meeting host confirmed that there were no attendees. At 7:04 Dilip Jain moved to close the public hearing for 101 Colburn Street, Swati Sane seconded this motion, all in favor.

Theresa Capobianco moved that the Board find that the condition of the property at 101 Colburn St namely the junk, trash, debris and junked vehicles located on property constitutes a public health nuisance in accordance with MGL chapter 111 section 122. Swati Sane seconded, all in favor.

Theresa Capobianco moved that the Board direct the Health Agent to issue the owner of 101 Colburn St an order to abate nuisance in accordance with MGL chapter 111 section 123 and to remove the nuisance if the owner does not comply with the order. Swati Sane seconded, all in favor.

7:07 - FDA Retail Program

Diane Legere gave a summary of the FDA Retail Program. If the Town of Northborough enrolls in the program, the Health Department would be eligible for a series of grants that would help build up its food safety and inspectional services for food establishments in the community. These grants would be for various things such as inspectional equipment, grants for training, travel for training programs, etc. Since 2014, 172 grants have been awarded to MA communities through this program. Grants are opened annually through this program, so Northborough would not be applying for any grants until next year. There is no commitment by being enrolled, but the Town would have to be enrolled in order to be eligible for the grants. A discussion continued. Dilip Jain moved that the Town of Northborough participates in the FDA Retail Program as discussed. Swati Sane seconded the motion, all in favor.

7:16 - PHEP (Public Health Emergency Preparedness)

Kristin Black explained that each year, the Board of Health is supposed to officially designate two voting members for the PHEP (Public Health Emergency Preparedness) region 2. Dilip Jain moved to designate Kristin Black as the primary voting member and Diane Legere as the secondary voting member for PHEP region 2. Theresa Capobianco seconded, all in favor.

7:20 -Establish Future Meeting Date

The next Board of Health meeting was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 14, 2021.

Glenn French motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:21. Swati Sane seconded the motion, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Katie Holt