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Inspection Services  
41 Elm Street

## TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE

June 10, 2021 Board of Health Meeting 6:00 pm

6:15pm Public Hearing: Amendment Regulation: Storage and Disposal of Solid Waste

6:45pm Public Hearing: Amendment to the Board of Health Fee Schedule

*Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, § 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Southbridge Board of Health will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the Town of Southbridge website, at <https://www.ci.southbridge.ma.us/>. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to watch the meeting may do so in the following manner; as usual, via cable access, TV Charter Spectrum channel 192.*

**No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted,** but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Town of Southbridge website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive records of proceedings as soon as possible after the meetings.

Agenda #1- Open Meeting- 6:02pm

Agenda #2- Roll Call-

E. Stephens  
R. LaRochelle  
A. Postale  
N. Duffey

Agenda #3- Accept Meeting Minutes

a. May 13, 2021- R. LaRochelle request amendment on page 3: the clinic is open Monday Wednesday and Thursday from 7-6 and Walk-ins are from 10-4. The minutes indicate the clinic is open Wednesday - Friday and that is incorrect.

Motion made by R. LaRochelle to accept as amended; 2<sup>nd</sup> by N. Duffey-

Roll Call

R. LaRochelle- yes  
A. Postale-yes  
E. Stephens-yes  
N. Duffey-yes

*Elizabeth Stephens*  
*Anthony Postale*  
*N. Duffey*

Motion passes unanimously. Meeting minutes to be amended.

Agenda #4- Citizens Forum- Citizens not present

Agenda #5- COVID-19

a. Update- A. Pelletier indicates Southbridge seems to moving into a slight upswing with an additional 6-7 cases today. The town is currently in the gray however, it is believed to be hovering between the green and the gray for the next couple of reporting periods and then the Town should be settling down.

Southbridge has 8003 with the 1<sup>st</sup> shot and 6800 fully vaccinated. Some concerns with the State regarding the Hispanic population. Out of the 8003 1<sup>st</sup> shot, 1400 are Hispanics and out of the 6800 fully vaccinated, 3720 are Hispanics. As far as the response from the minority population, Southbridge is generally better than the State.

RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
2021 SEP - 3 AM 9:23  
TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE  
MASSACHUSETTS

Calls from Day Cares and Businesses continue to come into the office with concerns although they are coming in fewer and fewer.

A. Pelletier reports as of the 15<sup>th</sup> the State of Emergency will be over in the State of Massachusetts and will no longer be doing the daily reports however, will have to open and follow up with every case.

In addition, A. Pelletier states the CTC contract has been renewed through September or so.

R. LaRochelle states the hospital sent out a memo, as of July 1<sup>st</sup> they will be closing the clinic and opening following week at the clinic where they have their testing site. The clinic is averaging 20 new people a day. The rest are re-vaccinations.

Agenda #6- New Business- Discuss well water concerns at 555 Pleasant St- A. Pelletier reports Mr. Gregoire reached out with concerns of cloudy water/discolored water. He asked for information regarding any well that the Landfill would have drilled. A response to Mr. Gregoire included a copy of the well and the depth of the well.

Mr. Gregoire reports A. Pelletier is correct in providing a lot of good information on the wells around the Landfill. The concern was there were two new wells put in towards the end of the runway on Pleasant St. Mr. Gregoire ended up with extremely dirty water for about two weeks after the two new well about 1000 ft deep were put in around the 20<sup>th</sup> or last week of April. He states he waited about a week before reaching out to anyone with thoughts it was a natural occurrence. That is when Mr. Gregoire reached out to A. Pelletier.

Mr. Gregoire expressed concerns that if the cause of the turbulence in his well was caused by the drilling of the new wells then that is a possible indicator of groundwater flow in the opposite direction that had been previously determined.

E. Stephens asked if he had his well water tested? Mr. Gregoire states no he wanted to speak to the board beforehand just in case there is something in the water and didn't want it to be a conflict.

R. LaRochelle questions if there were any reports/readings of contamination these wells? A. Pelletier responses these wells are relatively new and has not seen any testing yet. A. Pelletier will touch base with Anna on Monday as she is out tomorrow.

A. Pelletier responds to Mr. Gregoire regarding: conflict of interest with him taking his own sample. A. Pelletier suggest the Board look at his as a possible "test well" if he does find contamination, it might be worth for the Board to look at the other wells on the hill to see if there is contamination flowing in that direction.

R. LaRochelle disagrees: R. LaRochelle states he wants to see the results of the tests and if the aquifer is now running in a different direction, the landfill should be automatically testing and monitoring Southbridge residence well in that area. We need to know where its flowing and protect our Southbridge residents first.

E. Stephens states this is the first hearing about this and curious if anyone else that lives up there has had a problem and asks if A. Pelletier has had anyone else contact him with issues? A. Pelletier responds no however, Mr. Gregoire's house is the first in line of the water flow.

A. Pelletier states he will make it a priority to locate the results of the well testing and provide to the board as quick as possible. If the board feels there is something scary in the results, then we can call up a special meeting just on this topic.

R. LaRochelle states Tracy told the board before COVID they were updating new wells next to the old ones and now they're going on a whole different other side and doesn't remember being sent anything explaining that they have expanded. R. LaRochelle did not realize they were drilling new wells until Mr. Gregoire said so. And the question is WHY? What do they know that they are not tell us?

E. Stephens states we cannot make a sound judgement if we don't have anything. We do not have water tests or wells testing results. If I were overly concerned about contaminants in my water, the first thing I'm doing is a water test to relieve my sensibilities.

N. Duffey states if she noticed something in her water, she would test it right away. N. Duffey suggest reaching out to the neighbors and ask if they experienced any water issues in that time frame.

A. Postale states getting the reports, if they exist is still the priority.

A. Pelletier will contact Casella for the reports asap and will speak with Anna on Monday.

Mr. Gregoire thanks the board for their time. Mr. Gregoire announces he will be getting his well-tested and share the results with the board.

Motion to open the 6:15pm Public Hearing: Amendment Regulation: Storage and Disposal of Solid Waste made by N. Duffey; 2<sup>nd</sup> by A. Postale-

Roll Call  
A. Postale-yes  
N. Duffey-yes  
E. Stephens-yes  
R. LaRochelle-yes

Motion passes. Public Hearing opens at 6:32pm

A. Pelletier explains at the last meeting the Board of Health discussed amendments. We inserted those edits. Copy went to the Town Manager's office for distribution to the Councilors and received no comments. We have placed an ad in the paper under Chapter 111 and received no comments.

A. Pelletier asked if there is anyone wishing to comment on the Amendments of the Town of Southbridge Code of Regulations Storage and Disposal of Solid Waste.

R. LaRochelle announces he will not be voting because the board was not provided a clean copy of the amendment.

A. Pelletier explains if the board chooses to table the Public Hearing we do not have to re-advertise. Anyone in the audience would know we tabled the public hearing.

Motion to table the Public Hearing: Amendment Regulation: Storage and Disposal of Solid Waste made by N. Duffey; 2<sup>nd</sup> by A. Postale-

Roll Call  
E. Stephens-yes  
R. LaRochelle-yes  
A. Postale-yes  
N. Duffey-yes

Motion passes unanimously. Public Hearing is tabled. Hearing closed at 6:37pm.

#### Agenda #7- Old Business

##### a. Blight-

Idlewood St- A. Pelletier explains currently the department is running two parallel tracks. A court case scheduled next week, we will ask the court to mandate she take whatever resources the courts can find available for her. She has been provided a list of about 15 to 20 resources. We will also ask the court to order her to either provide a contract to have the house cleaned and repaired, or have the house removed and failing to do that, for the courts to tell the town to do it.

Parallel to this, we are going to move to Chapter 143. The Building Department declared it an unsafe building in case of a fire. We have declared it open to rodents, weather and a hazard because of the additional weight.

The case will go before subcommittee on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and then before Town Council to vote to order the Building Inspector to go in with resources to take the building down.

A. Pelletier explains he is hopeful either the courts or the council will work with the Board to cause this to happen. A. Pelletier expresses he wants the Courts backing to avoid any liability.

Southbridge resident, Mrs. Marcucci expresses frustration, concerns and disappointment regarding the health, safety and environmental impact the property has suffered. Including the detrimental impact on the neighborhood.

E. Stephens understands the frustration and explains there are laws that need to be followed.

A. Pelletier explains the Board of Health Declare it Unfit for Human Habitation and the law is very specific, that the Board of Health can take the building down one year after that declaration. In this case one year is ridiculous. That's why A. Pelletier went the Building Department route with the 1<sup>st</sup> step a Board of Survey with agreement the house needs to come down. First step has been done. The next step is to move it to Council for a vote. We have a court date of the 16<sup>th</sup>. If this fails, this will be before the PPP the evening of the 16<sup>th</sup> and then to Town Council.

R. LaRochelle questions why can one situation can be deemed so dangerous that in 24 hours has got to come down but this one has to go through a multi-step process? Another concern is the psychological and physical welfare of the resident.

A. Pelletier reiterates he has provided several resources and services to the property owner and all that can be done now is move forward with the laws. In this case, the property is deemed uninhabitable; the owner is not in the building and the building is not an instant threat of collapsing. The other property was an imminent threat with 40% to 50% removal of the support wall coming down. This is the difference.

E. Stephens requests to move on.

Motion made by N. Duffey to open the 6:45pm Public Hearing: Amendment to the Board of Health Fee Schedule; 2<sup>nd</sup> by A. Postale-

Roll Call

A. Postale-yes

N. Duffey-yes

R. LaRochelle-yes

E. Stephens-yes

Motion passes unanimously. Meeting opens at 7:00pm

Motion made by N. Duffey to table the Amendment to the Board of Health Fee Schedule; 2<sup>nd</sup> by A. Postale-

Roll Call

E. Stephens-yes

R. LaRochelle-yes

N. Duffey-yes

A. Postale-yes

Motion to table passes unanimously.

215 Hamilton St- A. Pelletier reports the engineer will be doing the 34 Review. If it is favorable, the closing is scheduled for the end of the month. If not, we will be going back to the owners and order to take the building down. However, should the sale go through, we will allow the rehab.

495 South St- A. Pelletier explains we are unable to locate the owner. After speaking with lawyers, we will be requesting alternative service from the courts.

b.318 (320) Main St- A. Pelletier reports the building is vacant. The bank foreclosed and put it up for auction however, the bank did not get the bid they expected so they put their own bid in. The hadn't filed the paperwork. Both the previous owner and the bank claim they do not own it yet. The department purchased locks and re-secured the building. We will be providing orders listing every violation of the property.

E. Stephens has concerns regarding the furniture/bulk items dumped in the back of the property. A. Pelletier responds he will ask to have it cleaned up and lien it to the property.

c. Public Health Excellence Shared Services Grant- A. Pelletier reports this is a shared grant with 6-7 other towns including Webster. This grant for \$300,000.00 intended to be used within the shared town. A. Pelletier believes because this is a shared/regional grant, the Board of Health may weigh in and give recommendations with Councils final approval.

Agenda #8- Chairman Announcements- no announcement

Agenda #9- Health Director Announcements- 60 people in attendance for the clean-up, covering about 6 miles of the town. Really good event.

Agenda #10- Board Members Announcements

R. LaRochelle- announcement will be forwarded in an email

A. Postale- no announcement

N. Duffey- no announcement

Agenda #11- Schedule Next Meeting- 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday; July 8, 2021 in person @ 6pm

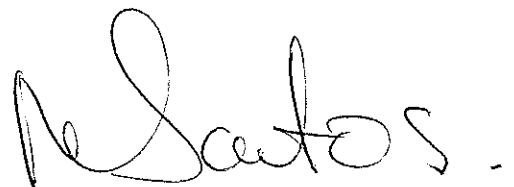
Agenda #12- Adjournment-Motion to adjourn by A. Postale; 2<sup>nd</sup> by N. Duffey-

Roll Call

E. Stephens-yes

N. Duffey-yes

A. Postale- yes



R. LaRoche-yes  
Motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm

PENDING: Body Art Regulations  
Marijuana Permitting

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