



Hudson Board of Health

78 Main Street
Hudson, MA 01749
(978) 562-2020

MINUTES

April 9, 2024
5:30 pm
Hudson Town Hall
3rd Floor Conference Room

Board Members: Michael Delfino, Cassia Monteiro, Allyson O'Malley

1. Preliminaries:

- a. **Call Meeting to Order** – Mr. Delfino called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.
- b. **Approval of Minutes from 3.19.2024** – Ms. Monteiro motioned to approve the minutes from 3.19.2024. Ms. O'Malley seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0.

2. Vouchers to be Approved:

Ms. Monteiro motioned to approve the vouchers. Ms. O'Malley seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0.

3. Appointment of Regional Inspector to Health Agent:

Casey Mellin has been our Regional Health Inspector on our MetroWest Shared Public Health Service team coming up on a year now. He occasionally does inspections here in Hudson, including food inspections, housing, and nuisance complaints. He is on the Regional team. Casey is not full-time in Hudson. Eddie is our full-time inspector in Hudson, and will call Casey for coverage if needed. We wanted to officially appoint Casey as a Health Agent. He comes to us with a lot of experience. Casey is a registered sanitarian and has all the required credentials. Ms. Monteiro motioned to appoint Casey Mellin as a health agent, Ms. O'Malley seconded the motion and motion passed 3-0.

4. The Health Department wanted to bring it to the Board of Health's attention that we have had two complaints that have come in from the state tobacco enforcement office regarding **workplace smoking violations at Saliga Machine Co. 10 Bonazzoli Avenue**. We have a regional tobacco inspector, who has been down to Saliga Machine a couple of times and met with the owner who admits to smoking in the building. The first visit was educational regarding regulations. The second visit on February 7th was a positive conversation. The inspector explained again that smoking is not permitted in indoor spaces. If there is another incidence we will follow through with a fine. We have regulations regarding smoking and fines are in place at \$100 first offense, \$200 second offense, and \$300 third offense. If there is another offense we will fine Saliga \$100. They can appeal in front of the Board of Health. Mr. Delfino agrees to fine for next violation. These regulations have been in place for 20 years.

5. The Health Department would like to update the Board of Health on the **Opioid Settlement Fund** also known as Opioid Abatement monies that were received from a number of lawsuits against big pharma for their hand in the opioid epidemic by over prescribing, withholding addiction risk information etc. We have had just over one hundred thousand deposited thus far but that money has been tied up in administrative procedure. There needed to be a town meeting, the finance department had to establish a specific account where the money will be deposited so we can start using it towards prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery. The Health Department is leaning towards using these funds for recovery and treatment. The Health Department would like to have a collaborative with input from the community. Starting next week, the Health Department will be launching a survey to be distributed in the community available in multiple languages. We will be asking how to spend money, asking the community if they have their own experience with addiction and what would have helped them or their loved one during that time. The Health Department has been working with MAPC (Metropolitan Area Planning Council) to get information and guidance and we will be mimicking their process with the survey. The Health Department is also looking to conduct one on one interviews along with focus groups. It is our hope that we will hit the ground running in September with an actual plan. We have a lot of great programs across MetroWest but not really here specifically in Hudson. There will be conversations on the regional level to share resources and knowledge. We will be doing a deep dive of data collection over the next few months.
6. **MWSPHS-Public Health Excellence Grant:** We are the lead host community for this grant which comes from the DPH (Massachusetts Department of Public Health). This grant is meant to increase local boards of health capacity at the regional level. There are capacity issues across the state and they want to level the playing field so all towns are starting with the same core services. Here in MetroWest we have 9 municipalities under the MetroWest Shared Public Health Service, (Hudson, Framingham, Milford, Millis, Medway, Maynard, Hopkinton, Ashland, Natick). We have been in communication with Marlborough and may be adding them this coming fiscal year. Our MWSPHS is a great team that includes, a shared service coordinator, two epidemiologists, one regional public health nurse, one regional inspector, a health communications specialist, and a community health worker. The team speaks multiple languages and they have a lot of experience. The team is housed here in Hudson. The big update that the Health Department wants to provide the Board of Health is that the state is changing contracts from one to three years. \$550,000 in funding per year to sustain staff that are on the grant. The Health Department will need to sign new contract and present the budget for FY25 very soon. We will share the FY25 budget with Board of Health when we have it. The only change would be that if Marlborough comes on board that number would go from \$550,000 to \$600,000 per year.
7. ***The Control and Keeping of Animals Regulation:*** Circling back from our last meeting where the board voted to amend the current regulations effective date of July 1st. Changes included, a fee that would be attached to the two year permits for anyone keeping chickens. There would also be required pest control. Our town council suggested verbiage. Wanted to make sure Board of Health approves of such verbiage. We will get it posted in newspaper, social media and our mailing list. Online permitting to be set up by June 1st so people have a month before the effective date of July 1st.
8. **Upcoming Events:**
 - a. April 27th we will hold one of two drug takeback days partnering with Hudson Police Department. We will be taking back unused drugs. We will be offering a home disposal system. We will also be taking sharps. The state has supplied us with a few free sharps collection boxes. We also plan on having onsite Narcan training.
 - b. May 4th is Hudson's Arts Fest. The Health Department will have a table. Main focus will be on the Hudson Has Heart initiative that ties in with Mental Health Awareness month which takes place in the fall.
 - c. May 7th Health Department will be participating in the annual Health and Wellness Fair held at the high school. We will give out resources and Narcan.

- d. May 11th Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. 860 Boston Post Road East Marlborough MA. Easterly Wastewater Treatment Facility 9am-12 noon. This event is for Hudson and Marlborough residents and is paid for by the towns.

Adjournment:

Ms. Monteiro motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:51 pm. Ms. O'Malley seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0.

Next Meeting:

May 2nd, 2024 at 5:30 pm at Hudson Town Hall 3rd Floor Conference Room