

Call to Order: Elaine Silva – Chair, Candace Linehan – Vice Chair, Marcy McCauley – Secretary at 6:32pm.

Administration present: Anthony Chui – Director, Daniel Thompson – Health Inspector, Melissa Lowry – Regional Public Health Nurse. **Jonathon Chines also present Daniel Lieber also present.**

Public Engagement: Leslie Scott comments on Rodenticide discussion about improving education on the subject and working with vendors and local companies to use alternatives to rodenticides. Leslie wants more detail under the meeting agendas going forward. Leslie comments agendas have not been posted since August 2024. Leslie also requested that Director Chui be more thorough about inspections and current dealings of the Health Department in his Director Reports.

Public Participation closed: 6:40pm.

Rodenticide Discussion: Anthony: email received regarding the use of rodenticides on town property specifically concerned with animals that eat rodents being poisoned. Daniel Lieber explains bylaw review committee started review over a year ago. Town is using various types of rodenticides, used by private individuals as well. Having met with mass dep of agricultural resources and as a town it is determined we can make bylaws for public property, but otherwise everything else is a public health issue since the health department primarily deals with rodents and human health. Zoning has also been contacted and is supportive of this. Laura Kiesel, subject matter expert in rodenticide, is present to speak on the matter. Laura is founder of Save Wildlife Arlington and wildlife advocate. Arlington banned SGAR's on public properties and submitted home rule petition to ban SGAR's on private property. She is a wildlife biologist. She led a presentation on the dangers of poison and recommend they should not be used. Board discussed the current regulations we have in place, specifically about alternatives and what our policy is for rodent abatement permits. Daniel recommends a crawl walk run approach. Start with making it illegal on public and municipal properties and increase from there. Much conversation regarding the ins and outs of developing local policy regarding banning these poisons. Board to set up a meeting with the DPW, see how many rodent complaints we had in FY2024, how many construction projects we had going on, hot spot areas, etc. reach out to arlington's health department for their pest control plans in act currently.

Marijuana Overlay District Discussion: mr Lieber comments about issue as it is coming up again at town meeting. Thought that the boards view at last town meeting was quite compelling. The new proposal for the overlay district has expanded and commercial use is now being argued for all permissible usages with no change in location. Opinion is that the town should not reconsider this proposal as it has expanded use and not changed anything else about the proposal. Believes this is very much a public health issue and it should involve the health department and their advocacy. Recommends the board of health votes to make a recommendation at town meeting.

Board allowed public comment for liaison Parker Hamlin: the marijuana store is aimed at being put next to a school.

Laurel Gourville public comment: recommends collaborating with WakeUp Coalition and continuing the work with them. Marijuana overlay district should not be approved. Board of health should voice its concerns at town meeting.

Jonathon chines: wanted to clarify the location of the district is about a half a mile away from the odyssey day school. School of rock was originally next to the site but is now closed. Just wanted to clarify what parker previously mentioned.

Anthony: if the board is interested on a statement for the planning board meeting, April 8th is the next meeting, then vote to agree on a position tonight and we can help them craft a message to present to the planning board.

BOARD: at this time we do not recommend the marijuana overlay district due to the lack of data and the history of the CCC. Basically remains the same as the statement from last year.

MOTION IS TO RECOMMEND AGAINST FOR GENERAL POINTS OF LACK OF INFORMATION LACK OF RESEARCH AND UNSTABILITY OF THE CANNABIS CONTROL COMMISSION, OTHER FUNDS HAVING RETRACTED FUNDS, AND POTENTIALLY POINTS FROM LAST YEARS STATEMENTS. ELAINE MOTIONED, ALL IN FAVOR 3-0-0.

Health Department Budget Overview: town meeting to discuss budget meeting was on 3/25/25 and very successful. Highlights of the presentation was thanking town council, growing prevention outreach and youth services with the addition of Elizabeth parsons. She has taken the reigns on wake up coalition. We continue to apply for grants in this tough environment but we just submitted for a grant (prevention framework services grant) submitted with Melrose and Stoneham also to support substance abuse prevention. Madhu also started very recently to replace amy's position and works with youth action team and middle/high schoolers. Brings wide range of experience. Sandra newest member of department taking jasons spot and hit the ground running. Spends 2 days and 1 night at food pantry every week. Has experience working with all age ranges. Inspectional services: dan and erin did great jobs with food inspections and permit reviews and enforcement standards. Just in 2024 we have conducted 190 routine food inspections and 45 follow-up reinspections to ensure compliance with health and safety regulations. We are now about 3 months into the year with no major concerns with any restaurants currently. Department has also had 132 food establishment permits and 10 total plan reviews in 2024. Lots of growth and new restaurants. 339 dumpster permits in 2024. Nusing: have improved their structuring and focus areas. Such as health promotion, opioid overdose prevention, summer camps and recreational safety, flu and vaccines, and communicable disease monitoring. Highlight of 2024 was passage of nicotine free generation proposal passage. Somerville, newton, Chelsea, etc also adopted to a total of 15 communities in MA that have adopted NFG. Decrease in tobacco permits and youth compliance checks continue to ensure compliance and educate.

Elaine has commented about the need once again for CPR courses. FEMA training on organizing and training of emergency response (4 day training). Anthony will look into if staff are interested in the training. Must register by the 28th of April. Will be made available to all staff.

Health Director's report: nurses have been very busy lately. Put together a big presentation about camp regulations for all three communities in order for them to understand the focus from the state. Need education among camp staff, for example healthcare consultants need to be training staff, training in medication administration documentation and reporting, and general understanding of what the camps are responsible for. Sandy has been working to give out Narcan and training on Narcan for all town employees which starts next week (pilot training for staff on Monday) we have Narcan at the health department that we also give out on site. Ideally once training is completed we can make it available at all public buildings. We must track all Narcan that's giving out in quantities (not who it is given to). Also discussed we're seeing a lot of flu and covid, some cases of norovirus.

Adjournment: next meeting will be tentatively held on April 30th, 2025.

Silva motion to close the meeting, seconded by Linehan, meeting adjourned at 8:40pm by roll call 3-0-0.