

**Board of Health Meeting  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
February 18, 2021**

The Hopedale Board of Health held a regular meeting on Thursday, February 18, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., in the Draper Room, Hopedale Town Hall, 78 Hopedale Street, Hopedale, MA. Those in attendance included: Chairperson Don Howes, Jason MacDonald, and Walter Swift. Also in attendance was Health Agent William Fisher. The meeting was on Zoom, televised on the local cable station and videotaped.

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Howes called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., noting that all members were present.

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**1. Regular Meeting Minutes: January 21, 2021**

It was moved by Mr. Swift, seconded by Mr. MacDonald, to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 21 2021. All voted in favor.

**C. REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

**1. Organizations/Individuals Wishing to Run a Program in Hopedale During COVID-19 Pandemic Need BOH approval**

Mr. Howes reminded the public that any organization wishing to hold an event in the Town of Hopedale during the pandemic needs to submit event plans and protocols for review and approval by the health agent.

Mr. Howes reported that there have been complaints about dust control at the Draper building demolition. Mr. Fisher reported that he and the building commissioner have spoken with representatives at the demolition site and have gone to investigate. Mr. Fisher reported that, since town water could no longer be used, the demolition crew was using a water truck and spraying. He noted that the volume of water being sprayed at the type of spray at the site is inadequate. He reported that he advised the representatives that they needed to use more water, a spray nozzle to cover the area better, and use a brine mixture so the water would not freeze. Mr. Fisher noted that he and the building commissioner would stay on top of the situation.

## **D. REPORTS OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Mr. MacDonald reported that he is gathering animal control procedures and protocols from Upton and waiting for information from Mendon and Blackstone. Once he has the information, he will submit to the board of health office for compilation and distribution to the board members at a future meeting.

Mr. Swift reported that he is gathering animal control procedures and protocols from Uxbridge and will submit that information to the board of health office.

## **E. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **1. COVID-19 Information Update: Vaccination Clinics**

Mr. Fisher gave a summary on the status of vaccination clinics. He reported that the state is not going to provide vaccine to single towns or multi-town groups unless the town or multi-town group can meet the following requirements: provide 750 vaccinations per day 5 days per week and meet an administration threshold of 85% and report doses within 24 hours. He reported that Hopedale has joined with Uxbridge, Mendon, Douglas, Northbridge and Blackstone to create a multi-town group. He stated that Uxbridge has ordered vaccine for the past three weeks and still has not received any vaccine. Mr. Fisher stated that, in order to meet the clinic requirements as set by the state, the clinics would require at least 13 nurses per day for 10 hours plus 3-4 support people for the nurses for administration services. If you reduce the shift from 10 hours to 5 hours, then you would need double the staff, which would be 26 nurses and 6-8 support people. He believed that Salmon VNA & Hospice and the Medical Reserve Corp. would not be able to supply the number of staff needed to staff the clinics. Mr. Fisher stated that it doesn't look like any towns will be able to do a vaccination program because of the logistics. He stated that he would make sure that shut-ins and people who needed transportation would be taken care of.

### **2. Review Recycle Center Fee Schedule (vote in March)**

It was the consensus of the members of the board that they would not increase the recycle center fees for FY2022. A formal vote will take place at the next board meeting.

**3. Review Annual Permits Fee Schedule (vote in March)**

It was the consensus of the members of the board that they would not increase the annual permit fees for FY2022. A formal vote will take place at the next board meeting.

**4. Animal Control Officer Protocols**

Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Swift noted that they have been gathering protocol and procedure information from area towns and would submit the information to the board of health office for distribution at a later date.

**5. Other –**

Mr. Swift had some concerns about trash collection the past few weeks. Mr. Howes explained that the E.L. Harvey driver, in an effort to get a jump ahead of collection, was picking up at some locations a day early. This caused residents to be confused on the collection day and concerned they missed collection. Mr. Howes spoke with the representative of E.L. Harvey and asked that this practice be discontinued.

**F. ACTION ITEMS**

**1. MDAR Animal Control Officer Designation**

It was noted that this is an annual designation that is submitted to the Massachusetts Division of Animal Health, Department of Agricultural Resources.

After a brief discussion, it was moved by Mr. MacDonald, seconded by Mr. Swift, to appoint Kevin Sullivan as the Hopedale Animal Control Officer. All voted in favor.

**2. Approval of Disposal Works Septic Plan: 37 Mellen Street**

After review of the plan, it was moved by Mr. MacDonald, seconded by Mr. Swift, to approve the Disposal Works Septic Plan for 37 Mellen Street. All voted in favor.

**2. Other – None.**

**G. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

1. Expenditure Ledger: 01/31/2021
2. Central Mass. Mosquito Control Project FY22 Assessment Estimate
3. Simple Recycling Textile Per Pound Report: 12/31/2020 and 1/31/2021

**H. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Set Annual Permit Fee Schedule (March)
2. Set Recycle Center Fee Schedule
3. Animal Control Officer Protocols

**I. NEXT MEETING**

1. Thursday, March 18, 2021

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:44 p.m., it was moved by Mr. MacDonald, seconded by Mr. Swift, to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

*Carol A. Villa*

Carol A. Villa  
Recording Secretary

**Approved: March 18, 2021**

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Documents List**

1. Draft Minutes: January 21, 2020 Regular Meeting
2. Letter from Marylou Sudders, Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services
3. Board of Health Annual Permit Fee Schedule: FY2021
4. Recycle Center Annual Permit Fee Schedule: FY2021
5. MDAR Animal Control Designation Letter
6. Informational Items
  - a. Expenditure Ledger: 01/31/2021
  - b. Central Mass. Mosquito Control Project FY22 Assessment Estimate
  - c. Simple Recycling Textile Per Pound Report: 12/31/2020 and 1/31/2021