

**Board of Health Meeting  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
April 15, 2021**

The Hopedale Board of Health held a regular meeting on Thursday, April 15, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. 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: March 18, 2021

It was moved by Mr. Swift, seconded by Mr. MacDonald, to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 18, 2021, as amended. All voted in favor.

**C. REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Mr. Howes reported:

- the recycle center has been busy.
- the Boy Scouts have removed their bottle collection at the recycle center
- a new foundation will be placed under one of the storage sheds at the recycle center
- he has learned that trash totes for all residents is not possible at this time due to the small size of the totes and the cost.
- the one free burnable bulk item per week collection for residents is built into the E.L. Harvey contract; he asked the E.L. Harvey representative if the resident pays for the cost of the burnable bulk item, what would the cost savings be on the contract.

**D. REPORTS OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Mr. MacDonald reported that he has spoken to the representative at the new glass recycling operation and stated that board members have been invited to visit the location at any time.

**E. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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

Mr. Fisher reported that the regional vaccine clinic is running smoothly with no major problems and approximately 2300 vaccine doses given per week.

Mr. Fisher also reported that Hopedale is still in the red with 31 cases in town, 3 students and 1 teacher.

## **2. Blackstone Valley Shared Services for Public Health**

Mr. Fisher reported that the Central Mass. Regional Planning Committee has put together a grant and is organizing 4 to 6 area towns to share public health services, such as inspectors and public health nurses. The grant would be for 3 years, after which time each town would decide to either no longer participate in the shared services or continue to share services and provide town funding. Mr. Fisher stated he would provide more information as it becomes available.

## **3. Recent Dog Bites in Hopedale**

Mr. Howes gave a brief description of a dog attack and bite that occurred on March 29<sup>th</sup>: two dogs, unleashed and unvaccinated, were running loose and attacked and bit a woman, attacked a leashed dog, which later died, and then attacked another dog.

Ms. Megan Stewardson of 17 Tammie Road gave an account of the attack, noting that she received only one contact with the animal control officer and then no follow-up from him. She had to get rabies shots.

Mr. Howes stated that the board is looking into revising the dog regulations and animal control officer reporting procedures, duties and responsibilities and plan to have further discussion at its next meeting.

## **4. Municipal Basketball Courts During COVID-19 Pandemic**

Board members reviewed an email from a resident who submitted a petition to open the park basketball courts. It was the consensus of the board to heed the advice of the health agent and not make any changes to order to keep the park basketball courts closed.

## **5. Recycle Center Revolving Account**

Board members reviewed the funds in the recycle center revolving account. Mr. Howes stated that the recycle center is not meant to generate a lot a money but to augment services to the residents of the town.

## **6. Review of Trash and Recycling Brochure**

Board members reviewed the current trash and recycling brochure; it was the consensus of the board to wait to see if any changes would be made to the burnable bulk item collections before finalizing the FY2022 brochure.

**7. FY2022 Budget Discussion**

Board members briefly reviewed the email regarding the FY2022 budget.

**8. Other** -None.

**F. ACTION ITEMS** – None.

**G. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

1. Expenditure Ledger: 03/31/2021
2. Two Emails re: Closing of Town Hall
3. Email re: Bodywork Regulations and Recycle Center Revolving Account

**H. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Review of Annual Trash and Recycle Brochure
1. Animal Control Responsibilities and Regulations

**I. NEXT MEETING**

1. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair
2. Review of Annual Salmon VNA & Hospice Contract

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:00 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: May 20, 2021**

**Board of Health  
April 15, 2021  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Documents List**

1. Draft Minutes: March 18, 2020 Regular Meeting
2. Report on Dog Bite on 3/29/21
3. Animal Bite Report Form: 4/4/21
4. Email to Park Commission on 3/30/21 re: Hopedale Basketball Courts
5. Email to Christine Luccini re: Hopedale Basketball Courts
6. Copy of Email to Finance Committee re: Recycle Center Revolving Account
7. Recycle Center Payroll V. Revenue: 4/6/21
8. 2020-2021 Trash and Recycling Brochure
9. Email from Finance Committee re: FY2022 Budget
10. Informational Items
  - a. Accounting Dept. Expenditure Ledger: 3/31/2021
  - b. Emails re: Closing of Town Hall
  - c. Email to Town Administrator re: Bodywork Regulations and Recycle Center Revolving Account