

TEWKSBURY Board of Health
Minutes
February 21, 2013

TOWN CLERK
BOARD OF REGISTRARS
TEWKSBURY, MA

13 MAR 11 PM 1:00

Call of Meeting to Order

MOTION - Ms. Kinnon made a motion to call the meeting to order at 7:13 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Knight and unanimously voted 5-0.

The meeting was held at the Town Hall Auditorium. Present at the meeting were, Chairman Phillip French, Vice Chairman Charles Roux, Christine Kinnon, Kathleen Brothers, Joseph F. Knight III, and Health Director Lou-Ann Clement.

No one was present to record or televise this evening's meeting and Kathleen Brothers, Clerk kept minutes.

Old Business:

OPEN SEAT ON THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Mr. French along with the Board welcomed the newest member to the Board, Joseph Knight. He was appointed by the Board of Selectmen to fill the vacancy on the Board until the Town election on April 6th.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA UPDATE

Ms. Clement stated that she had spoken with Senator Keegan's office to get information on his bill that was submitted to the Legislature. The bill has been assigned a number - S1031 and assigned to the Public Health Committee for a hearing. Ms. Clement followed up on the status of the pending Wakefield bylaw. Wakefield and Reading at their Town meeting voted to prohibit the marijuana dispensaries in town and is waiting Attorney General's (AG) decision. Wakefield's should be released by middle of March and Reading's by mid-April. Melrose is a city and does not require AG's approval. Ms. Clement also informed the board of some other cities and towns in the Commonwealth, who have taken action on the distribution of Medical Marijuana in their communities.

The Board discussed the upcoming Town meeting's zoning article and their support. The Board believes this is a public health issue and would like to be involved. This article was presented for the warrant by the Tewksbury Planning Board and asks the town to vote a moratorium on the implementation of the Medical Marijuana Dispensaries. The moratorium would be for one year. Ms. Kinnon stated that we should be able to let the Planning Board know that we support them. Ms. Clement is to find out what the procedures are for Town Meeting and if there are going to be any public hearings. I.e. can Board speak at Town Meeting, etc?

Ms. Clement explained that there are two issues on the table; one is zoning and the other will be how the dispensaries and the use are regulated. That is what MA Department of Public Health (MDPH) is currently working on. Ms. Clement stated that she attended a Listening Session on Development of Medical Marijuana Regulations. This session was held on February 14th, and sponsored by the MDPH. Ms. Clement states, that attendance was high and the majority of the speakers were patients and doctors, but there were police officers and parties either interested in opening a dispensary or already operating a dispensary in another state. Lots of the same things came up such as: identification protocols, doctor's responsibilities and capabilities regarding which diseases cannabis should or can be diagnosed as treatment for, treat it as a pharmaceutical from start to end, include tracking systems and testing protocols, etc. Ms. Kinnon is very concerned about the health impacts on our youths and requested a document be forwarded to the board.

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There was a representative from the Small Properties Owner Association in attendance and spoke in opposition. Ms. Clement also stated that one of the points presented was that the medical name of cannabis should be used instead of Marijuana. Ms. Brothers asked if the Federal Law was mentioned. Ms. Clement responded yes it was mentioned.

Mr. Roux stated that we as a Board should be working together with the Board of Selectmen (BOS). It is a Board of Health issue as much as it is a Board of Selectman. Ms. Clement will investigate the status of the BOS and draw up a letter to the BOS showing our support, if necessary.

CHELSEA GREEN SPACE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE LETTER:

Ms. Clement stated that she has spoken with the Fire Chief and that the Fire Department does not have foam to extinguish an ethanol fire. However, Ashland Chemical is a resource for foam should Tewksbury ever requires it. Global is not forth coming of what materials they transport and have no responsibilities to inform any community of what they transport. They transport large volumes of ethanol through Revere, Chelsea, Boston, Everett, Cambridge, and Somerville. Ms. Clement spoke with a representative from the Chelsea Green Space and who informed her that they had help from their legislators in obtaining a bill for DOT to perform a study in their communities. Tewksbury cannot be included in a current survey. A suggestion was made by the Board to get Rep. Miceli on board with this matter.

Mr. Roux heard that the Town Manager may be already addressing this issue. Ms. Clement will ask Mr. Montuori what the status is and inform him that the Board would like to be included in any work or surveys that are being done on this issue. If Mr. Montuori has not done, anything then the Board will draft a letter.

Please refer to: Chelsea Green Space Document. Dated 1/28/13.

PROPOSED GREASE REGULATIONS

Ms. Clement presented the revisions from the last meeting this topic was discussed. Mr. French open it up for discussion and Ms. Kinnon and Mr. Roux have comments that they will provide to Ms. Clement to revise for next meeting. Mr. French requested we send revisions to Town Counsel.

PROPOSED DUMSPETER REGULATIONS

No actions were taken at this meeting.

Announcements:

Ms. Clement made the Board aware of "Pet Preparedness Event" scheduled for February 28, 2013 at 7:00 PM at the Senior Center. Each member was given a poster to place somewhere in town.

There is training scheduled for next Tuesday for Emergency Dispensing Sites (EDS) at the Library at 9:00 to 11:00 AM, if any member would like to attend. The entire office personnel will be attending. This training is required under our Public Health Emergency preparedness grant. Ms. Kinnon stated she will attend.

Ms. Clement made the board aware of the Attorney General's (AG) Abandoned Housing Initiative. The office has been working with the AG's Office on the problem of abandoned and vacant property within the town. Some of these properties are abandoned due to foreclosures and sometimes owners have walked away. The properties could be put into receivership, if repairs are not completed. The receiver would make repairs to get the property into livable shape.

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There will be a Receivership Training Seminar on Thursday, March 7, 2013 from 10:00AM - 12:00 PM, at 120 Washington Street, third floor, Salem, Ma. 01970.

MOTION - Ms. Kinnon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Knight and unanimously voted 5-0.

Meeting Adjourned

Approved: 
Kathleen Brothers, Clerk

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