

DEDHAM BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES  
April 11, 2019

IN ATTENDANCE:

Leanne Jasset, B.S.P., RPH Chairperson  
Kathy Reda, RN., BSN  
Patty Roberts, RN  
Leontia Flanagan, Assistant Health Director  
Fior Griffin, Administrative Assistant

---

Meeting called to order at 5:35 PM

5:36 Open Discussion

1. No comments from the audience

5:36 Board Meeting Minutes Accepted

1. Motion made by Leanne to accept the March 14, 2019 board meeting minutes as written.
2. Minutes accepted.

5:37 Dr. Lester J. Hartman MD "Menthol and mint restrictions to 21+ smoke/vape shop"

Dr. Hartman has been a pediatrician for 33yrs. He has his Master's degree in Public Health, specifically in tobacco control. He was part of the movement to change the legal smoking age from 18 to 21y/o.

Dr. Hartman explained that after the change in the legal smoking age, the tobacco industry started to morph and introduced vaping. Vaping started in 2011 but Juul hit the market in 2015. The vaping flavors that are left in Dedham are mint and menthol. Dr. Hartman stated that menthol tends to addict people longer, especially kids. Data shows that it takes about 20% longer to quit when you use menthol cigarettes compared to regular cigarettes. Rates of people smoking cigarettes are dropping but the rates of people smoking flavored cigarettes have remained steady. Dr. Hartman explained the "Rules of 8". The "Rules of 8", states that in Massachusetts kids are Vaping at 8x's the rate of adults, 80% of high school seniors have tried vaping and Massachusetts is the 8<sup>th</sup> worst state in the United States for vaping. The tobacco companies want to present vaping as a way to get people to stop smoking but if you look at their advertisements they are targeting a new generation of youth, enticing them to start smoking.

During a press release on Wednesday April 10<sup>th</sup>, Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey said that she wants all flavors banned in the state of MA and a huge excise tax placed on all nicotine delivery devices. Dr. Hartman's concern is the difficulty of regulating nicotine delivery devices or flavors from town to town. Dr. Hartman asked if there are any Vape shops in Dedham. Chairperson Jasset informed him that there are not.

Dr. Hartman passed around examples of Juul cigarettes. He also stated that the Vaping cigarette holds 60 ml of nicotine. That amount is banned in the European Union. When you hear things about how effective vaping is in Europe (in the effort to get people to quit smoking), you need to understand that the Vapes in Europe only contain 20 ml of nicotine.

That is a huge difference. You can't compare apples to oranges. He also notes that the studies that are done are on adults over 40 yrs. of age. He is concerned about how vaping affects the vulnerable brains of kids. 90% of lifetime smokers began smoking before the age of 18. In the African American community, kids are intentionally targeted with menthol. Menthol anesthetizes the back of your throat so you can better tolerate the harshness of a cigarette. That is more attractive to people, especially the youth. Mint, menthol, wintergreen and nicotine combine with the Genes in our body and cause a predisposition for certain forms of cancer and other diseases.

Dr. Hartman said that never in his 33 yrs. has he seen such a horrible spread of addiction. He would like Dedham to start banning mint and menthol from being sold in Dedham. He said that kids use mint because they know that they can buy them at the convenient store. He said 75% of what kids purchase are from convenient stores. Board member Kathy Reda commented that they can't buy it because they are underage. Dr. Hartman pointed out that although they are in fact under age, they are still purchasing them at convenient stores, whether it be through a friend that is of legal age or by using false ID. Convenient stores say that they are doing their compliance checks but Dr. Hartman says to look at the data...look at the high schools. He spoke to the resource officer and parents at King Phillip Middle School, and they reported that 50% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders have used Juul already. When Dr. Hartman reported it to Maura Healey's office, they said that they had parents of 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders calling and complaining that elementary aged children were Juuling. The younger you are when you start, the greater your chance of being addicted to nicotine. There is legislation in the house and in the Senate right now, Senator Louis and Senator Keenan, that is trying to ban all flavors and place a high excise tax on all nicotine delivery systems. Dr. Hartman does not believe it will pass without the majority of the towns passing it. 144 Towns have passed flavor regulations, but they exempt mint and menthol.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> most common way to vape is using a vape pen called the Sourin. They are not prefilled, you fill them yourself. A quarter teaspoon killed a 2yr old that accidentally drank flavored vape juice.

Chairperson Jasset thanked Dr. Hartman for all his information. She said Dedham has always been very proactive. They went smoke free in public places well before the state did. She appreciates the information and looks forward to more discussions on it. The Board has worked with Cheryl and TJ in the past and will certainly reach out to them or to Dr. Hartman to take it to the next level or if they have any questions going forward.

#### 5:54 Directors Report

1. The Drug Free Communities program has hired a part time support staff. Her name is Cassandra Bigness. She will be starting April 22, 2019. She is a student at BU where she is obtaining her Master's in Public health. She will be working on the marketing and developing for the youth action team. She is scheduled to work 10hrs/week and she will be reporting to Kristina King.
2. The Health Department is still working with the Attorney general on the receiverships for the abandoned houses.
  - 159 Sandy Valley road is a new house that will be inspected.
  - Woodlawn is going to auction May 7<sup>th</sup>
  - 66 Lancaster Rd is under agreement and scheduled to close at the end of May
  - 132 Garfield is under agreement

- 22 Harding – bank closing on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May. If they do not close, they will go to court on the 26<sup>th</sup>.
3. We have met with Chris Pohl's, who is the owner/creator of Metverse. We are merging the Permitting systems and the inspectional systems. We are also preparing to send out the applications and renewals for camps, pools, sauna's and steam rooms this week. Pool permits expire at the end of June so the applications for renewals will start coming in soon. Camp applications will also start coming in and being reviewed. Red Sox camp has not reapplied. A new Camp, Mariposa, has applied. They are a Spanish speaking camp on Myrtle Street in East Dedham.
  4. The Farmer's Market applications are starting to come in. The Farmer's Markets will open mid-June.
  5. Horse Thieves was inspected and opened. No additional restaurants looking to open.
  6. Chairman Leanne Jasset asked about the Food Code changes. Assistant Director Lee Flanagan replied that it is coming along but it is a slow process. In addition to training for the inspectors, there will need to be training/education for the restaurant owners and also some of our forms in Metverse will need to be updated to reflect the new codes.
  7. There are also many septic system and Perc tests being performed.

#### 6:05 Transfer Station

Assistant Director Lee Flanagan received a complaint on March 26, 2019. There was also a video accompanying the complaint. The video appeared to show trucks dumping trash at the transfer station. The dump truck had seagulls flying around it. The complaint was made that the Transfer station was not supposed to take any solid waste and why was it continuing to happen. Ass. Dir. Flanagan asked for a list of trucks that had dumped at the Transfer Station that day. At about the same time that the complaint came in, the Health Dept. also received test results from Woodard and Curran. The results showed elevated levels of E-coli in the water. Mike Mowbray was asked to come in to explain the waste being dumped at the transfer station. Last time the issue was discussed, it was decided that they were not going to take any solid waste except for on Saturdays. Mrs. Flanagan read the following email:

"Upon developing this list, it was brought to our attention that the Dedham municipal collection trucks had on multiple occasion been dumping at the Transfer station. Waste management, Dedham curbside collection trucks had been dumping on waste management's commercial account and not the traditional Dedham DPW account. As a matter of company policy, we have always accepted delivery of the Town of Dedham municipal, DPW and resident's solid waste. Effective April 8<sup>th</sup>, we have revised that policy not to allow Dedham municipal curbside collection vehicles to utilize the Transfer facility without direct permission from the Dedham DPW on each occurrence."

Chairperson Leanne Jasset asked if the complaint about the seagulls included a complaint about an odor as well or was it just the sight of the seagulls that drew attention? Asst. Dir Flanagan answered that it was just the sight of them and of them diving down into the trash. She spoke to animal control and asked if there would be any reason for them to flock around construction debris. He said no, not unless there was some food there that the seagulls were trying to get to. There were no seagulls there the day, Assistant Director Flanagan visited the Transfer station.

Mike Mowbray is in attendance to speak on behalf of the Transfer station. Mike is the acting Manager at Recycling Solutions. He is accompanied by Shawn Crowley. Shawn helps manage both facilities that Recycling Solutions operates.

Mr. Mowbray asked when the video was taken. Lee says the complaint was on March 26<sup>th</sup> but the video was taken March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Mowbray received the email to attend the Board meeting to address the type of waste that is being collected at the Transfer station. He was asked to supply a list of customers that had dumped at his facility on two specific dates. The dates being in Nov 2018 and March 2019.

The Transfer station and Dedham municipal trucks both dump at the Millbury municipal site. The lines to dump at Millbury disposal site are sometimes 3-5 hrs long. Because of this, Mike realized that if a truck goes there to dump around noon, they probably won't be back in time to finish their routes. So he has, in the past, allowed the municipal trucks to dump at the transfer station. Traditionally, they would bill the Town (DPW) for allowing them to dump at their site and then DPW would recover the money from Waste Management. At some point, the billing of the municipal collections, was changed from the Town of Dedham DPW to Waste Management's Commercial route.

When Recycle Solutions banned the municipal solid waste, they thought they weren't taking Dedham DPW waste because they weren't seeing it on the invoices. When Mike went through the list to get the customer numbers, he noticed that there are 3 specific trucks that pick up the collection in the Town of Dedham (651, 652 & 703) and were dumping at the Transfer Station. His employees have been instructed to accept the waste because it's from the Town of Dedham. Since then, he has talked to Joe Flanagan, the DPW Director and they are going to eliminate that material from entering the facility. Mike did not see the video so he does not know what was on the trucks but says that typically household municipal curb side trucks do collect trash that includes food waste. That was probably what was attracting the seagulls.

Joe Flanagan, Director of Public Works, explained to the Board that last June, he told Recycle Solutions that they would no longer be taking municipal waste and notified Waste Management not to go there. That worked out well until they got a new route supervisor and a new driver. Unbeknownst to the DPW, Waste Management starting dumping at the Transfer Station again because of the long wait lines at the Millbury disposal site. Millbury is a trash/energy plant. Joe said that today (April 11, 2019) the line at Millbury was so long (3hrs) that they had to dump at Taunton, as Waste Management owns that landfill. After reviewing the invoices he noticed that the

Notified Waste Management and they said they weren't dumping in Dedham, they must be going to Taunton. After speaking with Mike Mowbray, they determined that the trucks were in fact going to the Dedham Transfer station and NOT to Taunton. Joe spoke with the new route supervisor to let him know that nothing should be going to the Transfer station.

Joe Flanagan also stated that they started sampling last June. They had hired Woodard and Curran to do storm water sampling. They had a good report in the fall, but then the last reading was high for e-coli. Woodard and Curran is making some proposals for some on-site cleaning and other recommendations of things that can be done to try and rectify the problem. The samples were not taken from the river but were taken from the catch basins.

Leanne Jasset, confirmed that in June 2019, it was mandated that there be no dumping of municipal solid waste at the Transfer station. It appears that it was going well until mid-November (when the first report came in) and then waste began being dumped at the Transfer Station again. This seems to coincide with the timing of the new route supervisor and new driver. The new supervisor was spoken to April 8<sup>th</sup> and so we expect that there will be no more problems with the

dumping going forward. Chairperson Leanne Jasset asked when the sampling is done. Joe Flanagan responded that it happens quarterly. Ms. Jasset asked if it could be tested sooner. Mike Mowbray said he could have a testing done in 2 wks.

Mr. Mowbray wants the Board to know that they are committed to determining the cause of the elevated levels of E-coli and doing what they can to rectify the situation. They started patching the asphalt last fall but were not able to get it finished before the winter. It is on their "to-do" list. They have been systematically trying to eliminate every item that may be contributing to the elevated e-coli levels. The septic system, interior holding tank is pumped every week. There is an alarm system in the tank but employees also have to physically go inside to make sure the tank is clean. When Woodard and Curran reported the high levels of E-coli, Mike hired a storm water management company to help service the systems. However, the storm sceptors are not a typical catch basin, they are more like a collection system. Because of this, there are few companies that know how to service it. Recycle Solutions has been through 3 different companies in the past year trying to find someone knowledgeable in servicing the storm sceptors that are on site. They finally found a company to service the storm sceptors but it has to be done in Mr. Mowbray's presence so that he can ensure that it has been serviced properly. They've increased the number of times the drains are serviced from annually to quarterly.

Mike was also told that the geese population may have an impact on the e-coli levels. There is a grassy area to the right of the driveway that is saturated with geese droppings. One of the Recycle Solutions consultants advised Mike to look for and clean the droppings from the asphalt. When the truck comes into the driveway, the droppings are getting on the tires and being tracked all over the premises. Mike is looking into ways to deter the geese from congregating and nesting on the property. One idea was to use a coyote decoy and another method would be the purchase of a "Bird be gone." The Bird Be Gone plays sounds of predator animals that will hopefully keep the geese away.

DPW Director Joe Flanagan said that there are many contributing factors. The geese are one of them. Other causes may be storm run-off coming down Incinerator Road and entering the property that way. They are also working with the DEP.

Lots of people on board trying to fix the problem. Leanne asked if they have started the process of patching/resealing the asphalt. Mike explained that the tires on some of the trucks were changed and have damaged the asphalt. Because of that, there are areas that need to be patched and areas that need to be paved over. This has caused a change in the scope of work and so they are getting a new quote and hope to continue the work soon.

Bob Waha former chairman of the Solid Waste Committee, commented that the Canadian geese are there every year. He would like to know if the E-coli levels go up every year when the geese are there. Director Flanagan explained that there is no historical data to look at since last year was the first year they did testing.

There were no further questions but Kathy Reda commented that she appreciates the efforts that have been made to correct the e-coli issues. She stated that when they were first given the results of high e-coli, there was no explanation for it. She is glad to hear that they believe they are narrowing down on what the possible causes may be.

Mike agreed that there are many possibilities. It can be a combination of the geese droppings, pigeons that live in the rafters or the solid waste that was being accepted at the Transfer station. Leanne would like them to come back next month with new test results to try and compare new results with what has been done to try and mitigate the problem. Mike Mowbray said that he would also like to see more test results to try and find a pattern. Joe Flanagan said that Wood and Currant would be back in the next month to test again. Leanne confirmed with both Mike and Joe that there is no more municipal solid waste being brought to the transfer station. Joe confirmed that the only solid waste being brought to the transfer station is from Dedham residents on Saturday morning.

No further questions on the Transfer station.

6:30 New business

1. A resident at 91 Hillside Rd would like to apply for a permit to keep chickens. The neighbors are opposed to it. Assistant Dir. Lee Flanagan would like to put the issue before the Board during the May meeting. Leanne believes that we cannot refuse a permit just because of opposition. There has to be a violation. She is willing to hear the arguments from the neighbors during next month's Board meeting.

6:33 Old Business

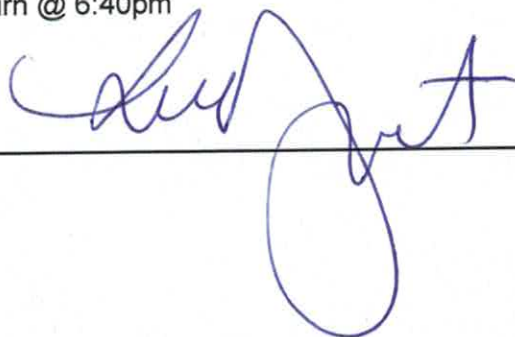
1. Proposed to have Mr. Lindholm from Courthouse Cigar Shop on the agenda for May's meeting.
2. Jinny LeClair would like to set a date to meet with one of the Board members regarding the Plastic Bag Ban. She would also like to be on the agenda for the May meeting.
3. The Health department received a package from 280 Stoney Lea Rd. It has been sent to Town Council for further review.

Kathy Reda received an email from a nurse named Susan McCray. She is looking into having AED's at all the fields in Dedham. She is working with Bob Stanley from Parks and Rec. She is concerned because there is not always an ambulance present at the field when kids are playing. One of the issues they are looking into, is how to house them at a public place without them being stolen. Leanne remembers that Dr. O'Leary had worked on this situation, years ago, when he was on the Board. She thought that he had been able to get donations to purchase some AEDs. She also recalled that some coaches had AEDs that they brought to the fields. Kathy said she would check with Bob Stanley from Parks and Recs. Leanne said that if the Board can be of any value with that initiative that she would be happy to help advocate for it. Resident Mike Cochi, added that he had an email from Bob Stanley from 2017, and according to him, at that time the Dedham Park & Rec had AEDs at all its major locations. That includes the Dolan Center, the Dedham pool, Memorial Park, and Rustcraft Park. Most recreation employees are trained on using them. The smaller parks, like Paul Park, do not have them. Some of the groups that permit our field bring their own AEDs. Mr. Cochi believes that it would be a good idea to have one at all the fields because it would take an ambulance too long to get to the field if there was an emergency.

Tonight is Patty Roberts last Board Meeting. The Board would like to thank Patty for all her time and service.

No Executive Session  
Motion to adjourn @ 6:40pm

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

5/19/19