



**TOWN OF DIGHTON  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

**February 10, 2022**

**Members Present**

Thomas Pires  
Kevin Bernardo  
Barbara Catabia

**Staff Present**

Todd Pilling  
Nicole Mello  
Stacy Ferry  
Rosalind Grassie

TOWN CLERK  
DIGHTON, MA

2022 MAR 17 AM 9:56

RECEIVED

**Call to Order:** Chairman Thomas Pires called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

**The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

**Business:**

**Review / Discuss / Act: Proposed Kennel Regulations**

The revised draft kennel regulations and revised permit application were reviewed. The changes made to the regulations were to eliminate the need for an expensive hearing through the Zoning Board of Appeals. Under the revisions the Board of Health would now hear the applications with no application fee involved. However, the Board members recommended enforcement of the regulations be changed from the Board of Health Office to the Town Clerks Office. The Clerk's office is already responsible for licensing both dogs and kennels.

The Board members were not sure if the proposed regulation changes needed to be brought to a hearing where the legal notice was already posted last fall. It was noted that the Planning Board Administrative Assistant, Kerry Easterday is researching the law and will report her findings to the Board.

Animal Control Officer / Inspector, Stacy Ferry requested the discussion be tabled until she has time to read the revised regulations. She needs time to review them. She said that she was not included in the meetings for the regulation changes and had just received the regulations.

Building Commissioner James Aguiar stated this issue is important. He recommended scheduling a special meeting or workshop to discuss the regulation language.

It was motioned by Kevin Bernardo, seconded by Barbara Catabia and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to table discussion until the March meeting.

**Roll Call (3) Ayes**

**Kevin Bernardo, Barbara Catabia, Thomas Pires**

**Review / Discuss / Act: Rabies Clinic**The 2022 Rabies Clinic has been scheduled for Saturday May 21, 2022 3-4 p.m. The clinic will take place at the Animal Shelter, 821 Tremont Street. The

*Thomas Pires*  
3/10/22

vaccinations are \$19.00 cash payment only and dog licensing is will be available payments are only payable by check.

**Review / Discuss / Act: Schedule Public Hearing for Proposed Septic Regulations**

Discussion: Changes to septic regulations require (2) legal postings. Kevin Bernardo will forward the language needed for the legal postings Once approved and stamped by Town Clerk the regulations will need to be sent to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to review and review and ratification. They agreed the public hearings will be held Wednesday, April 14, 2022.

**Review / Discuss / Act: Schedule Public Hearing for Proposed Body art Regulations**

Discussion: Body Art Regulation changes only requires (1) legal posting. The Board decided to combine the notifications for both the proposed Septic and Body Art Regulation legal postings.

**Review / Discuss / Act: ReTrac Annual Report**

Health Agent Todd Pilling reported the solid waste annual report is almost ready to be sent to (DEP). Mr. Pilling explained that he is waiting for numbers from Town Administrator Michael Mullen. As soon as he receives the numbers from Mr. Mullen, he will submit the report and apply for the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) grant.

**Review / Discuss / Act: Propane Tank Reclamation / Acceptance**

Chairman Thomas Pires stated it is becoming difficult for the Town to continue to accept propane tanks. The State now requires the removal of the valve and a hole drilled in the bottom of the tank so it cannot be refilled.

Discussion: Storage of propane tanks is becoming problematic. Blue Rhino accept propane tanks. Should the Town no longer accept propane tanks? The town could accept them at the Household Hazardous Waste (HHHW) collection day as a continued service for town residents.

The Board asked for a sign to be posted at the Transfer Station “No Propane Tanks Accepted”

It was motioned by Kevin Bernardo, seconded by Barbara Catabia and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to no longer accept propane tanks except possibly at the (HHHW) Collection event but only if the vendor allows.

**Roll Call (3) Ayes**

**Kevin Bernardo, Barbara Catabia, Thomas Pires**

**Review / Discuss / Act: Schedule Bulky Item Pickup Week**

The Board scheduled the Bulky Pickup week for the Week of Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> – Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Update Capital Outlay Request**

Chairman Pires reviewed the Boards original requests.

New Roll Off Containers (2)	\$12,000.00
New Building / Swap Shed	\$20,000.00
Point of Sale (POS) System	\$11,000.00

Discussion: The new building / swap shed will be built when the Highway Department moves to the Transfer Station. The old Roll Off Containers can be used for tire storage.

**Review / Discuss / Act: MEHA (Mass. Environmental Health Association) Title V Seminar**

Health Agent Todd Pilling explained that the (MEHA) Seminar this year is March 9, 2022, from 9 a.m.– 4 p.m. in Mansfield. He would like to attend this seminar as it will help with him getting his soil evaluation & Title V Inspector credits. The cost is \$95.00. Board of Health member Barbara Catabia stated that she would also like to attend.

It was motioned by Kevin Bernardo, seconded by Barbara Catabia and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to approve sending two (2) members to the (MEHA) Seminar.

**Roll Call (3) Ayes**

**Kevin Bernardo, Barbara Catabia, Thomas Pires**

**Review / Discuss / Act: MHOA (Mass. Health Officer Association) Membership Renewal**

Health Agent Todd Pilling stated the membership renewal for (MHOA) is \$60.00.

It was motioned by Kevin Bernardo, seconded by Barbara Catabia and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to renew the (MHOA) membership.

**Roll Call (3) Ayes**

**Kevin Bernardo, Barbara Catabia, Thomas Pires**

**Update Recommendation to the Board of Selectmen re: Form a Solid Waste Committee**

Chairman Pires explained that he had sent a letter to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) requesting a postponement of his meeting with (BOS) to discuss the need to form a solid waste committee. He requested a Board of Health (BOH) meeting be posted for February 23, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. for the Board to meet with the (BOS) to discuss the formation of a solid waste committee.

**Review / Discuss / Act: Resident Handbook of what to expect when installing, repairing, or upgrading a Septic System.**

It was motioned by Kevin Bernardo, seconded by Barbara Catabia and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to table discussion of the resident handbook.

**Roll Call (3) Ayes**

**Kevin Bernardo, Barbara Catabia, Thomas Pires**

**Other items not reasonably anticipated**

None

**Inspectors Reports**

**Health Agent Todd Pilling** reported the Emergency Preparedness Committee discussed that there was no longer a need for the Pandemic Task Force Reopening Committee. He explained that the Emergency Prep Committee had disbanded the Task Force at their January 26, 2022 Emergency Preparedness Meeting.

Mr. Pilling also reported that the (BOH) office is receiving a lot of complaints regarding animals leaving their properties and visiting neighboring properties. He stated that office is also receiving complaints regarding the number of animals being housed on a property. He explained there were 80 goats seized by the (MSPCA) on one property, another property had 60 cows on 5 acres. He stated the absence of regulations makes it hard to enforce the health and welfare of animals.

**Animal Inspector Stacy Ferry** reported the Agricultural Commission has started drafting regulations for the number of animals allowed on a property.

Board member Barbara Catabia stated the Agricultural Commission is dealing with a lot of issues. She explained that a lot of residents think because Dighton is a Right to Farm Community, they can do anything they want regarding animals. Mrs. Catabia stated Right to Farm does not mean you can encroach on your neighbors.

**Town Nurse Nicole Mello** reported since January 31, 2022, the Covid-19 positive case numbers are much lower. She stated the contract tracer Dianna Shannon is doing great and the mask mandate is expiring February 28, 2022.

**Building Commissioner James Aguiar**- Nothing to report

**Animal Inspector Stacy Ferry** added that there is a property in Town with 14 dogs. The dog owner feels that that because the property is a 61A property and they are considered livestock he has the right to breed and does not need a kennel license.

Health Agent Pilling will research the court case regarding dogs being considered livestock and report back to the Board.

**Public Input**

None

**Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Kevin Bernardo, Thomas Pires stepped down to second and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to approve the meeting minutes of October 25, 2021, December 9, 2021, and January 13, 2022.

**Roll Call (2)**

**Kevin Bernardo, Thomas Pires**

**Adjournment**

It was moved by Kevin Bernardo, second Barbara Catabia and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 P.M.

**Roll Call (3) Ayes**

**Kevin Bernardo, Barbara Catabia, Thomas Pires**

**Respectfully Submitted**

**Rosalind Grassie**

**These minutes reflect a summary of procedure and discussion for this meeting.**