Minutes of a public meeting held on October 21, 2019, by the Sandwich Board of Health in the Sand Hill School Community Center, 16 Dewey Avenue, Sandwich, MA.

Members Present: Sandra Tompkins, Rebecca Lovell Scott, Pam Dana Snyder
Health Agent Present: David Mason
Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Woodbury
Others Present: Mary Cote, Christine Kirchun, Jacob Swenson, Tao Woolfe

1. The meeting was brought to order by Sandra Tompkins at 7:05 p.m.

2. A presentation by Sustainable Practices regarding a plastic bottle ban that is on the Special Town Meeting warrant with the intention of obtaining the Board of Health support for the plastic bottle ban warrant article.

Mary Cote and Jacob Swenson from Sustainable Practices presented the Board with a proposed plastic bottle ban for the upcoming Special Town Meeting. Some ideas included the Town to use water bottle filling stations for several town properties. Pam Snyder suggested to the Board about proving a written statement for the upcoming town meeting supporting the goals of Sustainable Practices and sees the merit of the suggestion, and if it is the will of the Town, and if the appropriate funding is available the Board is in full support behind the proposal as written.

3. Discussion: the Board is to discuss Governor Baker’s Public Health Emergency regarding vaping and discuss regulatory options that can be implemented to regulate vaping prior to the ending of the State of Massachusetts Public Health Emergency.

David Mason supplied the Board with information from the Barnstable County Tobacco Control for action the Board to consider once the State Ban of the sale of vaping product is lifted. A sample regulation was to restrict minors access to purchase at retail stores and have the products available at an “adult only” tobacco stores. Pam Snyder expressed concerns regarding the flavored vaping products targeting children. The Board asked to have Bob Colette from Barnstable County Tobacco Control to attend the next meeting for further discussion.

4. Discussion: the Board to discuss the Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan (CWRMP) and the regulatory components associated with the Boards authority. Specifically, regulatory components regarding potentially garbage grinders in residential homes and commercial businesses.

David Mason spoke with the Board to explain that the Water Resource Advisory Committee devised a management plan for the prohibiting of garbage grinders in the anticipation of the nutrient loading that it creates and the problems it creates for waste water treatment plants. Although the State allows garbage grinders, the septic system must be designed for them. Unfortunately, homeowners are purchasing and installing them without approval. David Mason recommended to the Board to propose a regulation to prohibit the future installation of new garbage grinders for the efficient operation of the future waste water treatment plant.
5. Discussion: the Board is to discuss the Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan (CWRMP) and the regulatory components associated with the Board's authority. Specifically, regulatory components regarding Fertilizer Regulations.

David Mason provided the Board with information from the CWRMP to discuss a future regulation on fertilizer in order obtain a credit of nutrient reduction after seeing the effects on several on the ponds in town. The majority of towns on Cape Cod have already implemented a fertilizer regulation. The Board fully supported the proposal and David would draft a regulation for another discussion at a future meeting.


David Mason provides the Board an update from POCCA regarding the Eversource Herbicide Management Plan for the upcoming year. Mr. Mason discussed re-affirming the Board's position opposing the use of herbicides on the Eversource Right of Way.

Mr. Mason also informed the Board that the Town of Sandwich has also eliminated the use by town employees of glyphosate on all Town owned properties.

7 Reserved for topics not anticipated by the Chairperson

David Mason updated the Board about a meeting with STEEP from the University of Rhode Island at Barnstable County following an article in the Cape Cod Times regarding a study of the presence of PFAS and PFOA in over half of private wells on Cape. David is in discussions with homeowners and the Sandwich Water District to facilitate the process of expanding town water availability to more areas.

8. Review/Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Rebecca Lovell Scott to approve the minutes of the Board of Health Meeting from March 11, 2019 as written, seconded by Pamela Dana Snyder, and the motion passed with a vote of 3-0-0.

A motion was made by Rebecca Lovell Scott to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. seconded by Pamela Dana Snyder

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Woodbury
Board of Health Administrative Assistant

Date Approved: 11/18/19