

Ayer Board of Health  
Meeting Minutes  
August 24, 2009

Call to order 5:00pm

Members present: Margaret Kidder, Chair, Mary Spinner, Clerk and Marilyn McMillan, Member  
Also present: Michelle Carlisle, Administrative Assistant

- Minutes approval – 7/27/09
  - **Mary Spinner motioned to approve minutes from 7/27/09 with changes, M. McMillan 2<sup>nd</sup>, A 3/0.**
- Bills approval - none
- House Bill 1148 – put forth by Rep. Hargraves to protect doctors from liability who prescribe antibiotics for more than 28 days for patients diagnosed with Chronic Lyme Disease. Hearing is on 9/22/09. M. Spinner is requesting that this board send a letter of support for this bill. Ayer and its surrounding towns have a 40% higher rate of Lyme Disease than surrounding towns.
  - **M. McMillan motioned to draft a letter of support for House Bill 1148, M. Spinner 2<sup>nd</sup>, A 3/0.**
- PanAm update – M. Spinner reviewed the information she had received from the public meeting on 7/29/09 regarding PanAm that she attended. This board sent letters to the Environmental Protection Agency and the Mass. Dept. of Environmental Protection requesting their technical assistance. M. McMillan had attended a recent Board of Selectmen meeting and suggested to them that we set up a technical advisory group. M. McMillan offered to organize that group. Dan Nason, Superintendent, Dept. of Public Works, is looking into hiring a Licensed Site Professional. M. McMillan stated that DEP and EPA can help with that and maybe offset some of the cost of the LSP.
- 28 Maple Street – Perry Goldstein of 28 Maple St. has submitted a request for a variance to the Zoning Board of Appeals. He is putting on an addition that is larger than the existing footprint. Removing an existing shed and expanding the kitchen (smaller than existing shed). Addition of family room and screened in deck. This was forwarded to the BOH for review because the property is located in the Grove Pond Zone II of the Aquifer Protection District. Next hearing date is in Sept. (date unknown). Property is on town sewer. M. McMillan and M. Spinner have no issues. M. Kidder would like to drive by and take a look. M. Spinner asked M. Kidder to send a letter out to other boards asking that we receive information such as this in a more timely fashion in the future.
- Transfer Station issues – a resident wanted to purchase a recycle only sticker and with that sticker wanted to purchase bulk item stickers and use the reuse shed. This resident was told no at the DPW. M. Carlisle to draft a memo to DPW stating that residents with recycle only sticker may purchase bulk item stickers and use the reuse shed. A message from DEP asking if Ayer will take some of Nashoba Valley Medical Center's recycling was discussed. Board's general response was no because we don't allow commercial use of the transfer station. M. Spinner to respond to DEP.
- Emergency Management Response meeting – M. Spinner attended a meeting at the Fire Station on behalf of the board. M. Spinner will attend the monthly meetings going forward to update the plan on the Board's behalf.
- Shaun Suhoski, Town Administrator, asked about the H1N1 Virus meeting taking place at 6:30pm. M. Carlisle to forward him the information from that meeting.
- Mail reviewed –
  - PanAm summary from Shaun – email to M. Kidder.

09-15-09A11:01 RCVD

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- Nashoba Associated Boards of Health – Bridgette Braley, Health Agent – material review
  - 110 Central Ave. – property is now connected to town sewer. B. Braley will re-inspect. M. Spinner explained there is an on-going issue with trash. M. Kidder was given pictures of the trash. B. Braley will send another letter.
  - Kingsbury Circle – B. Braley reviewed plans and commented that it needs to adhere to Title 5 regulations. Property is on the Groton/Ayer line.
  - Beach testing is good.
  - Housing violations on Willard St. and Fletcher St.
  - Beverage permits – non-alcoholic.
- M. Carlisle request for a 3 day work week instead of 4. Schedule would be Tuesday – Thursday, 9:00am – 12:00pm. Board approved.
- M. McMillan reviewed the NACCHO book stating some stats were very interesting.
- M. Kidder called for a break in the meeting before the H1N1 Virus meeting – 5:55PM.

Mary Spinner - 9/14/09

Margaret Kidder 9/14/09

Mary McMillan 9/14/09

Ayer Board of Health  
H1N1 Virus Meeting Minutes  
Monday, August 24, 2009

6:30PM

In attendance: Ken Gikas, Program Consultant, Region II, Emergency Preparedness Coalition  
Robert Pedrazzi, Ayer Fire Chief  
Charles Dillon, Ayer Fire Department  
Jim Garreffi, Director, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health  
Bill Plunkett, Director of Admin/Business Operation, Ayer Public Schools  
Rebecca Gardner, Ayer Middle/High School Nurse

- M. Kidder resumed the meeting at 6:30PM.
- M. Kidder did introductions and an overview as to why it is vital that we have open lines of communication regarding the H1N1 Virus this fall.
- Ken Gikas – passed out information packets regarding the H1N1 vaccines.
  - Reviewed how many vaccines the state will receive and who will receive them 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - There are 5 manufacturers.
  - All vaccines are purchased by the state – will not be in doctor's offices.
  - Board to obtain school population numbers.
  - Need to decide who will administer the vaccine.
  - Ken informed board of third party companies who charge to administer the vaccine. One called "Flu Busters", but they charge \$30/shot.
  - Ken stated that the H1N1 is the flu, it's not the plague.
  - If vaccine is administered at the schools, permission slips will need to be filled out by parents. M. McMillan stated that the board can't send out the permission slips until they have all the information regarding the vaccine.
  - Question – if the schools administer the vaccinations to students, who would administer the vaccinations for other residents? Ken stated that NABH would have a clinic and that the elderly are not currently scheduled to receive the vaccination.
  - M. Kidder and M. McMillan requested a copy of a permission slip that the town of Webster will send out.
  - M. McMillan asked Rebecca Gardner how she and Jodi Boudreau, Page Hilltop nurse, feel about giving the vaccinations. Becky stated that she and Jodi haven't discussed it yet. She did say that other permission slips for other vaccinations provide the information regarding the vaccine.
  - Jim Garreffi – getting school head count from their member towns. Might do regional clinics on weekends for the vaccinations. Jim sent an email to his schools asking for their suggestions.
  - Ken's suggestion is to go through the schools.
  - Jim said he has one town who doesn't want to go through their school.
  - M. McMillan asked Jim how many nurses he has on staff. Jim stated 2 full time, 1 part time and several retired who would volunteer.
  - School has a conference call with the Dept. of Public Health at the beginning of Sept. to discuss the H1N1 Virus.
  - First responders are not included at this time to receive the vaccination. That will probably change.
  - Fire Chief, Robert Pedrazzi, stated that regulations may change to allow EMT's to give the vaccinations.

09-15-09A11:02 RCVD 

- M. McMillan stated that she heard there are issues with the rate of growth of this vaccine and that it probably won't be available in Oct. Also, this virus may change and the vaccine may not work.
  - Ken stated that 4,500 people have already received the vaccine. No issues have been found yet.
  - Daycare facilities – Jim Garreffi to look into this.
  - M. Kidder stated it is a must that we have a communication protocol.
  - M. Kidder expressed that we need to do this step by step.
  - M. Carlisle reviewed what happened in the spring regarding the communication breakdown.
  - Bill Plunkett – DPH stated that higher than normal absences should be reports<sup>ed</sup> to the local BOHs.
  - M. McMillan stated that education should be our main concern. Asked what can the BOH do to help?
  - Ken discussed a great video that he saw regarding education called “cough etiquette”. M. Carlisle to try and find a copy of this video.
  - M. McMillan stated she heard that families are having “swine flu parties”. If one person gets the H1N1 Virus, they pull everyone together so that everyone can get it and then maybe they won't get it again. BOH does not recommend this.
  - Fire Chief Pedrazzi asked if the BOH would endorse the school's policy that sick students should stay home.
  - Jim stated that the schools should go by the CDC's protocol.
  - M. Kidder suggested to meet again after the school has their conference call with DPH.
  - Jim stated that NABH must re-register to administer the H1N1 vaccine.
  - M. McMillan suggested making a video.
  - M. Carlisle to set up an email group.
  - M. Kidder suggested to meet again on Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Everyone agreed.
  - Bill Plunkett asked who keeps records of the vaccinations if the schools administer the vaccine to students?
  - Jim stated that the schools would have to keep those records.
  - M. Carlisle asked how will the vaccines be distributed? Jim stated he didn't know yet.
  - M. Spinner asked where would NABH have their clinics in Ayer? Jim hasn't confirmed locations yet.
  - M. McMillan stated that the BOH is here to help not dictate.
- **M. Spinner motioned to adjourn, M. McMillan<sup>2nd</sup>, A3/O.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

*May Spinner - 9/14/09*  
*Marybeth Kidder 9/14/09*  
*Mandy McMillan 9/14/09*