

NEEDHAM BOARD OF HEALTH
September 14, 2016
MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Edward V. Cosgrove, PhD, Chair, Jane Fogg, Vice-Chair, M.D., and Stephen Epstein, M.D

STAFF: Timothy McDonald, Director

GUESTS: Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager
Christopher Coleman, Assistant Town Manager
Matthew Borrelli, Chair, Board of Selectmen
Marianne Cooley, Vice Chair, Board of Selectmen (via phone)

CONVENE: 6:30 p.m. - Needham Town Hall, 1471 Highland Avenue, Needham MA 02492

DISCUSSION:

Call To Order - 6:37 p.m. - Dr. Cosgrove, Chairman

APPROVE MINUTES:

There was no approval of the Board of Health's meeting minutes from September 11, 2016; review and approval of such will occur at the Board's next regularly scheduled meeting on Friday October 21, 2016.

DISCUSSION WITH CHAIR & VICE CHAIR, BOS, AND TOWN MANAGER

The Town Manager, Ms. Fitzpatrick, and the Assistant Town Manager, Mr. Coleman, along with Mr. Borrelli and Ms. Cooley, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Selectmen, met with the Board of Health to discuss a number of policy operational considerations for the Town of Needham.

The discussion included a review of the Board of Health's concerns about the mixed use zoning by-law that was adopted during Spring 2016 Annual Town Meeting. The Board of Health's concerns were based upon the Registered Marijuana Dispensary zoning by-law adopted at Spring 2015 Annual Town Meeting and how that by-law was adopted for zoning locations that did not contain residential parcels.

Dr. Cosgrove and Dr. Epstein spoke about how the 2016 zoning changes mean that the area in which the Board of Selectmen's preferred RMD candidate (Sage Cannabis at 29-37 Franklin Street) would locate might, within a few years, have dense multi-unit housing developments. Dr. Epstein specifically talked about the health effects on youth of impaired driving, and his concerns about how that already risky behavior might be deemed more

acceptable by youth if marijuana were legalized for recreational youth.

Dr. Fogg mentioned her concerns about marijuana but wanted to understand in what ways the Town of Needham has treated and zoned alcohol; she mentioned her desire to treat inebriants equally in terms of zoning and geographic placement.

Mr. Borrelli and Ms. Fitzpatrick acknowledged the Board of Health's concerns but did discuss the importance of property rights for existing land owners and how to balance between ways to limit exposure of youth to a marijuana store while still respecting the rights of existing landowners. Ms. Cooley echoed the concerns of both parties, emphasizing the importance of balancing between the two considerations. The identified next steps include a meeting with Town staff (Town Manager's Office, Public Health, and Planning) in the next month to further discuss the issue and to set the stage for a Board Chairs meeting later this fall, ideally in November.

Discussion amongst the elected Board members and the Town officials then turned to the Board of Health's interest in exploring the additional medical data that has become available about the effects of traffic emissions on health. The Board of Health promised to keep the Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen apprised of the results of the Board and the Public Health Division's research into this subject.

Adjournment -

Upon motion duly made and seconded, that the September 14, 2016 BOH meeting adjourn at 7:03 p.m. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Next meeting is scheduled for, Friday, October 21, 2016.

Respectfully submitted: Timothy Muir McDonald, Director of Public Health