

Lincoln Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 22, 2020
Donaldson Room, Town Offices

Members Presents: Frederick Mansfield, MD
Steven Kanner, MD
Patricia Miller

Others Present: Stan Sosnicki, Asst. Public Health Director and Elaine Carroll, Adm. Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Patricia Miller made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2019 as written. Steven Kanner seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous. The next meetings will be on February 12 and March 11, 2020 in the Donaldson Room.

Styrofoam Ban:

Trisha O'Hagan, Kelley Devaney and Alex Vai along with other members of Mothers Out Front came before the members to request their support for a Polystyrene (PS) Reduction Bylaw to be on the Town Meeting for a vote in March. The warrant article is in partnership with the Lincoln Sudbury Environmental Club who was responsible for successfully passing the plastic bottle and plastic bag ban in 2018. The Town of Sudbury will also be looking to pass this same ban. Polystyrene (PS) is available in both foam and solid forms and is often marked with resin ID code 6 and/or the letters PS. Finished PS contains residual styrene that can be leached into food or drink. The US National Toxicology Program states that styrene is "reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen". The International Agency for Research on Cancer in 2018 upgraded Styrene risk from "possibly carcinogenic to probably carcinogenic". High temperatures, high fat and long contact causes more leaching of Styrene into food or drink. PS is also an environmental health issue because Foam PS is lightweight, easily lost into environment and moved by wind and water into the ocean. It fragments easily into micro plastics, resilient in nature; plastic particles in the ocean can release toxins and can cause a disruption of the marine food chain and contaminate human food supply.

The proposed PS Reduction Bylaw regulations would include: 1) Prohibit food and retail establishments in Lincoln from using, distributing or selling disposable food service ware made from foam or rigid polystyrene; 2) Prohibit retail establishments in Lincoln from selling or distributing packing materials, coolers or other containers, pool or beach toys, floats/buoys made from foam polystyrene that is not fully encapsulated in a more durable material. Exemptions: 1) This bylaw would not apply to prepared food or non-food goods packaged with polystyrene outside of Lincoln, if these products are sold without re-packaging or alteration; exemptions would also made for specific items if the BoH finds no reasonable alternative can be found, or in cases where not using a specific item can be shown to cause undue hardship. Reasonable and economical alternatives to polystyrene products exist and are already widely in use. Market Basket has already replaced some of their polystyrene products and Dunkin Donuts has replaced foam cups with paper cups. Recycling is not the answer and does not resolve health concerns and is not economical. The Lincoln School and Donelan's are the biggest users of polystyrene products. Donelan's repackages their meats, fruits and vegetables in polystyrene products and the school uses polystyrene trays in the cafeteria. Dr. Kanner asked that Mothers Out Front update their health risks since some of it is 40 years old and also something to show the economic impact this may have on Donelan's. The group felt that the pennies that it may cost are worth decreasing the health risks. The members said that they were supportive of the proposal and look forward to the final product.

Checkout Bag Charge Authorization:

Alex Vai spoke to the members about petitioning State legislature for a special law requiring Lincoln retailers to charge at least \$0.10 for each new checkout bag distributed regardless of type. This is not a tax and the money collected would remain with the retailer. Transparency via explicit bag charge would be on the receipts. The special law must be passed by the legislature and signed by the governor to go into effect. If this is passed at Town Meeting than the Selectmen would petition the legislature, which is a challenging place to get this passed. If the Town would do it themselves then it could be in danger of being overturned. This is an extension of the existing plastic bag bylaw passed in 2018. This ban only shifts people to using and disposing of paper bags, which can put a lot more paper into the recycling system and cost the Town more money. The best option is to

use a reusable bag made of non-woven polypropylene or cotton, which can be used multiple times. These bags can be purchased for as little as \$1.00 and used repeatedly, therefore not adding to the waste stream as with paper bags. There is no hard evidence that businesses are harmed by bag charges. Several places in Massachusetts are already charging along with California, Maine, Vermont and countries around the world. The free paper bags add to a retailer's overhead. Legal issues in Massachusetts make it hard to implement this without going to the legislature for approval. Large retailers are in favor of charging a fee for bags because it is good for their business. The members said there are supportive of the fee for bags and it is the logical consequence of the plastic bag bylaw.

Minuteman Commons, 82 Virginia Road:

Stan gave an update of the condition of the septic system at Minuteman Commons. He said they are keeping the tanks pumped down and the stream on the driveway is gone. They have flushed it all out and have pipes with holes pushing out with 2 ½ lbs. of pressure. They will be working back down the force drain to see if there are any breaks in the lines. They are continuing to work on it and he will keep the members updated.

Barn Licensing:

The members reviewed the regulations for barn licensing from Concord, Sudbury and Wayland. It was said in State regulations that a Town may establish regulations for barns but it is not required. The Board will work with the Animal Control Officer to license the barns in Lincoln after they had heard from Town Council as to whether Lincoln is required to license barns. Dr. Kanner would like to see the State standards by which the Animal Control Officer inspects the barns yearly and Elaine Carroll will request that these be provided.

Other Business:

Town Report – The members reviewed and approved the Town Report for 2019, which will be turned into the Selectmen's Office.

Bills Paid – Town of Lexington for Oct. 19 Hazardous Waste event for \$1,076.15 and Nov. 2 for \$346.12; East Middlesex Mosquito Control 3rd Quarter for \$2,575; and Eliot Community Human Services 2nd Quarter for \$1,500.

There being no further business, Steven Kanner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Patricia Miller seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8: p.m.

Submitted by Elaine M. Carroll

Approved: February 12, 2020