



BOARD OF HEALTH

1196 MAIN STREET
HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS 01520

TELEPHONE (508) 210-5542
FACSIMILE (508) 829-0252



Meeting Date – July 12, 2022

Members Present - Mr. Michael Mazloff, Michelle O'Routke, Melissa Tuomi

Others Present: Denise Monteiro – Recording Secretary, Helen Ganas – Public Health Nurse, Christopher Wilson – Epidemiologist Leicester Regional Public Health Coalition, Francis Dagle – Director Leicester Regional Public Health Coalition

Michael Mazloff called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM.

Approval of Minutes – April 12, 2022 – Michelle made a motion to approve, Michael seconded - APPROVED

Approval of Minutes – June 14, 2022 – Melissa made a motion to approve, Michael seconded – APPROVED

Title V Inspections Completed

- 10 Old Broad Street – Conditionally Passes
- 7 South Road – Passes
- 400 Wachusett Street – Passes
- 299 Bullard Street – Passes
- 334 Bailey Road – Passes
- 99 Mason Road – Conditionally Passes
- 410 Princeton Street – Passes

Systems Being Repaired

- 10 Old Broad Street – D Box Replacement
- 99 Mason Road – D Box Replacement
- 114 Union Street – Complete System Replacement/Upgrade

Health Agents Report/Updates

- Michael Mazloff asked for an update on the Board of Health Agent vacancy. Francis responded that he received some applications but none of them are qualified for the position. Considering hiring a full time Title V inspector separately from the agent as it is highly unlikely we will get someone with both sets of qualifications. Also looking to hire a Public Health Nurse to help Helen.

Covid

- Helen Ganas reported vaccination rates are still at or above the state level. The numbers are definitely coming down.
- There have been some tick-borne disease positives, but nothing alarming.

New/Other Business

Plastic Bag Ban for the Town of Holden

- Michael Mazloff suggested to propose the ordinance to the town of Holden. He submitted a document titled “Proposed Holden Regulation on Use of Non-Disposable Plastic Bags” dated July 12, 2022
- Francis Dagle asked if we wanted to add any enforcement to it if it does pass.
- Michael Mazloff answered not at this time, going to try to work with the Select Board and see what the next steps will be.
- Michelle O’Rourke and Melissa Tuomi support the below proposal

PROPOSED HOLDEN REGULATION ON USE OF NON-DISPOSIBLE PLASTIC BAGS

July 12, 2022

The production, use and disposal of single-use plastic bags has significant adverse impacts on the environment:

The EPA reports that only about 15% of plastic bags are recycled; the remainder are incinerated, buried in landfills, or end up as litter.

Plastics fill up our landfills, bags blow in the wind and get strewn across communities, clogging drains and waterways.

Littered plastics floating in our waterways harm fish and other marine life.

Communities across the state and country have passed bans on the use of non-disposable single-use plastic bags:

As of May 2022, 154 Massachusetts cities and towns, representing over two-thirds of the state's population, regulate single-use plastic shopping bags.

The City of Worcester passed a ban on single-use plastic bags that went into effect on April 1, 2020.

The states of Connecticut, Maine, New York, Vermont, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Delaware have passed bans on single-use plastic bags.

The Big Y Shopping Stores, the largest retailer in Holden, removed single-use plastic bags from all 70 of its stores in August 2019. As its shoppers have learned, it is relatively easy to use alternatives to plastic bags (reusable bags, paper bags, cardboard boxes and box tops), and our environment benefits from the change.

The purpose of this proposed bylaw is to reduce the usage of thin-film single-use plastic bags by all retail and grocery stores in the Town of Holden.

Use Regulations:

- Thin-film single-use plastic bags shall not be distributed, used or sold for checkout or other purposes at any retail or grocery store within the Town of Holden.

- Customers are encouraged to bring their own reusable or biodegradable shopping bags to stores.

Retail or grocery stores are strongly encouraged to make reusable checkout bags available for sale to customers at a reasonable price.

- Thin-film plastic bags used to contain dry cleaning, prescription medications, newspapers, produce, meat, bulk foods, wet items and other similar merchandise, typically without handles, are still permissible.

- Customers are encouraged to bring their own reusable or biodegradable shopping bags to stores. Retail or grocery stores are strongly encouraged to make reusable checkout bags available for sale to customers at a reasonable price.
- Thin-film plastic bags used to contain dry cleaning, newspapers, produce, meat, bulk foods, wet items and other similar merchandise, typically without handles, are still permissible.
 - Approved 3-0 to move forward
 - Add to August Meeting Agenda to discuss progress

State Opioid Fund Uses

- Francis Dagle, the Health Director of the Leicester Regional Public Health Coalition, approached the BOH with a proposal to establish a regional position of Substance Abuse Coordinator to serve the member towns of the Coalition (Barre, Brookfield, Hardwick, Holden, Leicester, New Braintree, North Brookfield and Oakham). The proposed Substance Abuse Coordinator would oversee and implement a multi-town program to reduce substance abuse and violence through education, prevention programs, direct interventions, counseling and outreach; provide technical assistance around policy implementation, suicide awareness and prevention, and other key strategies as needed to address emerging and shifting trends. This individual would be based in and supervised by the Town of Leicester Health Department.
 - Francis suggested that the position be funded by pooling the allocation of State Opioid Prevention Funds currently available to LRPHC towns. Holden's allocation is \$8,128 in 2022 and \$4,307 in 2023.
 - Melissa Tuomi asked if there had been any steps taken to involve local Police departments, since they are the agencies that typically deal with these issues in area towns. Francis replied that this was part of the program design, the Leicester Police Chief was in support and that he was going to contact other Police Chiefs about this. Board members suggested that this be done for Holden as well.
 - Melissa Tuomi moved that the Board of Health express its support for the creation of the position of a Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator for the member communities of the LRPHC, that funds that Holden receives through the State Opioid Prevention Funds be allocated to this project, and that the Board of Health will actively support the efforts of the LRPHC in expanding available resources through grants to the MDPH.
- APPROVED 3-0

Next Meeting August 16, 2022 at 5:30 pm

Adjourned 6:13pm