

TOWN OF HARWICH



BOARD OF HEALTH

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**TOWN OF HARWICH BOARD OF HEALTH
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3 2019-9:00 AM
HARWICH TOWN HALL – SMALL HEARING ROOM
WORK SESSION
MINUTES**

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairwoman Pamela Howell, R.N., Vice Chairwoman Sharon Pfleger, Member Matthew Cushing, M.D & Member Ronald Dowgiallo, D.M.D.

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS ABSENT: Matthew Antoine

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Health Director Meggan Eldredge, Senior Health Agent Kathleen Tenaglia & Executive Assistant Jennifer Clarke

Recording & Taping Notification: As required by law, the Town may audio or video record this meeting. Any person intending to either audio or video record this open session is required to inform the Chair.

I CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Howell called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

II BOARD OF HEALTH WORK SESSION

A. Review of Draft Town of Harwich Nutrient and Pesticide Control Bylaw

Health Director Eldredge reviewed the information that was provided in the Board's packet.

Dr. Cushing stated that he feels most of the regulations are inadequate and useless, simply because people are not following them. He is not sure how many people pay attention to the percent of nitrogen that is in the products that they are purchasing. Based on his personal experience, Dr. Cushing believes that it does not make any difference what kind of fertilizer is used, but that lime makes all the difference in the world. In his opinion, it would be most important to emphasize to people that you don't have to use fertilizer.

Ms. Pfleger added that some of the regulations would be impossible to enforce and she would like to see the Board focus more on education, not only for the landscapers, but for homeowners as well. She asked if we are required to adopt regulations or if we could put most of our energy into education. Health Director Eldredge responded that the MDAR regulations are in place and enforced at the state level. The Board can refer to them and say they would like to adopt them, and focus on education. It is not a requirement to adopt them because they are already in place by the state.

Ms. Howell would like to see definitions included in the education component.

Ms. Pfleger asked how the Board would go about educating, adding that handouts alone will not work. She asked if it would be possible to license landscapers. Health Director Eldredge responded that Chatham has a certification to become a certified fertilizer applicator and that they rely on the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension for providing the

courses. Ms. Pfleger added that we should have informational brochures that are easily available. Health Director Eldredge suggested sending information out with tax bills. Ms. Pfleger responded that mailers with tax bills might not work because some people don't receive paper bills. She suggested having information available at the library as well as making announcements at Board of Health and Board of Selectmen's meetings. Dr. Cushing suggested using Channel 18 and WCAI radio for broadcasting information.

Health Director Eldredge stated that what she is hearing from the Board is that regulations will not work and that efforts should be focused on educational campaigns, which will satisfy the CWMP. She also added that we have been looking at the possibility of a Facebook page.

Mr. Dowgiallo asked if a page could be run in the Cape Cod Chronicle, maybe once a month. He also asked if we can find out from Scotts Lawn what products they are applying. Health Director Eldredge responded that we could ask Sean Fernandes from the Golf Department, who is certified in turf management, to come before the Board in early 2020, with educational information.

The Board agreed to direct Health Department staff to start compiling educational information for them to review.

III OTHER

Health Director Eldredge provided the Board with a brief sewer update.

X ADJOURN -The meeting adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

Ms. Pfleger moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 a.m., 2nd by Dr. Cushing and approved 4-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Clarke

Next meeting is Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Small Hearing Room.

Documents included in December 3, 2019 Board of Health Meeting Packet:

- December 3, 2019 Board of Health Work Session Agenda
- Town of Harwich Draft Nutrient and Pesticide Control Bylaw dated November 4, 2019
- Town of Harwich historical notes from former Health Director dated November 14, 2013
- Copy of CWMP Fertilizer Education
- MA Plant Nutrient Regulations: Non-Agricultural Tuft and Lawns Fact Sheet dated January 2016
- Chart of Cape Towns
- Town of Brewster Chapter 119 Fertilizer Nutrient Control dated July 18, 2019
- Town of Orleans Chapter 103 Fertilizer Nitrogen and Phosphorus Control dated November 5, 2018
- Town of Chatham Board of Health Regulation on the Content and Application of Fertilizer used in the Town of Chatham dated November 19, 2014
- Town of Eastham Regulations pursuant to the Eastham Wetlands Bylaw dated December 9, 2014
- Town of Eastham Town Land Policy on the Content and Application of Fertilizers and Pesticides on Municipal Land in the Town of Eastham (no date on document)
- Any other documents submitted/for at the December 3, 2019 Board of Health Work Session