

Board of Health
Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2023

Members in attendance: Chair Helaine R. Hazlett, Vice Chair Joanne Greer Miller, Tom McMahon, & Health Director Andrew Petty.

Agenda:

1. Meeting Minutes July 11, 2023 & Meeting Minutes August 7, 2023

Motion made and seconded to approve minutes as received. 3 Votes in Favor, Passed.

2. Transfer Station Refund Requests

(3) requests for refunds were presented and approved. 3 Votes in Favor, Passed

- 3 Elaine Leahy of Sustainable Marblehead

Helaine introduced Elaine Leahy the Executive Director of Sustainable Marblehead. She began by thanking the Board and Andrew for all the good work that is being done in Marblehead. Sustainable Marblehead is a community organization working to educate and engage the Marblehead community to reduce waste and pollution and achieve net zero emissions by 2040. Their working groups include conservation, arbor, town trees and urban forestry, green homes and buildings, and clean energy and public policy. They work with many volunteers and town representatives including Marblehead Housing Authority, Marblehead Tree Warden, Recreation and Parks Commission, & the Board of Health just to name a few. Four opportunities were presented for the Board to review.

- a. Composting. By composting food waste from or trash stream, which can reduce trash costs, while extending the life of our landfill space. Also therefore reducing the amount of greenhouse gasses and returning nutrients back to the earth.
- b. Composting in the schools. Marblehead High School and Veterans Middle School are composting their food waste with their respective initiatives.
- c. Recycling Education. Better education on what is and is NOT recyclable is helpful in reducing the roughly 30% contamination rate for recycled materials.
- d. Mental Health. Spending time in nature, walking rather than driving. Conservancy partnership would be helpful in reducing the town's carbon footprint.

Andrew discussed the use of grant money from the DEP for small recycling dividends to put towards the first 50 bins of Black Earth signed up for this new initiative. There is a 13-Gallon bucket or a 4-Gallon bucket available for use. The 13-Gallon bucket will be \$29.50, the 4-Gallon bucket will be \$10.00. He also covered the use of Recyclesmart.org to check if an item is recyclable or not. The school composting would need to be discussed with the school board. He also discussed clean-up days, like the one happening Saturday September 23rd at Devereux beach, Sustainable Marblehead will be sponsoring an event there at with fun and games.

4. Mental Health Task Force Update

Joanne stated that she would like to find out more about the mental health appreciation of the great outdoors with Sustainable Marblehead, as she would like to further collaborate on this project. The Mental Health Task Force met on Monday September 11th, 2023- and discussed their strategic priorities.

- a. Membership. Mark Lavon is leading the effort to appoint new members. In order to ensure a quorum can be reached for meetings.
- b. Community engagement. Finding topics that are meaningful to engage with, speaker programs, and also Umass Boston will be conducting the community survey to understand the needs of the people.
- c. Branding and marketing. Marblehead Mental Health Task Force and the Marblehead Cares will continue to remain robust and having content added as it's developed. A social media

team will help to reach the community via social media. There are resources available through the website and resource table across from the Health Department office.

- d. Legislative and politics. To influence and advocate for funding at the state level, meeting with leaders to meet goals created by these initiatives. Such as Brett Murray, Jenny Armini, Brendan Crighton, and Seth Moulton. Tom Massaro submitted a Marblehead Cares article in the Marblehead Current presenting mental health as a public health issue.

5. Town Bike Rodeo Safety Program

Partnering with the Police Department, Schools, Recreation and Parks, and Marblehead Cycle to teach bike safety. Issues covered not wearing helmets, texting while riding, riding on the wrong side of the road, and traffic safety.

6. Facility Stickers

Andrew discussed the current use of stickers for transfer station access and the need to make a decision on what the Board would like to use moving forward. He mentions the sticker-less system(s) available- a card with information on the car, make, model, plate, and resident information, or even a true sticker-less system. Originally speaking with sticker less system company the price tag was going to be \$60,000.00 to allow for the license information to be entered into a system that would recognize when the vehicle entering by a camera to the facility. Some issues raised about the sticker less system is that when a car entered for use of brush or appliance recycling, there would be a message that the vehicle was illegally entering sent. This is problematic because they would be using the site correctly but the system would not recognize that. Eagle Eye Systems was more setup for small parking lots and small business, not for use with the transfer station needs. He would like to explore other companies, but there is both a cost associated and an increase to current employees workload in order to follow up on these issues when they arise. This adds to the already current issue of lack of staff for operations. Ideally 2 scale operators, and a sticker checker that could allow for the flexibility needed. Also mentioning that there are 2 groups of employees currently. A Monday through Friday group and a Tuesday through Saturday group to cover the 6 days a week that the transfer station is open. This does mean that there is always a few people that will be working O.T. to cover the hours of operation. With any vacation or sick coverage needed, there is also need for another H.E.O. to cover the current needs of the station. Since the closure of GREIF in Salem, we now need to travel farther to recycle our materials and have less coverage at the station for longer periods of time. This would call for an increase to the current budget to cover the added costs of payroll needs.

The discussion about facility sticker pricing was brought up and will be reviewed for proper pricing. Joanne made a comment about the sticker cost not being the issue, but disrespectful and assaulting residents are using the station without consequence and that should change. The use of the recycling area will need to be more enforced by staff of residents and commercial vehicles, both of which need to have a Transfer Station sticker or Commercial Recycling Sticker for any access to this area. Commercial customers should purchase these through the office or Flanaganm@Marblehead.org.

The Stickers for use will be changed from saying Marblehead Facility Sticker and having the seal of the town, to Facility Sticker with no town seal. There will also be an added space for the written license plate number on the sticker. Commercial stickers will allow Marblehead business owners to recycle material that they generate at their office. This is to allow them use of recycling where there would normally not be one. Commercial recycling is available at Greenworks on route 1 Peabody. Without the purchase of the commercial recycling sticker, they will be directed there. This would NOT cover the unlimited use of recycling, it covers up to 1-ton per sticker per season. These would need to be purchased for each vehicle using the facility, separately. Contact Flanaganm@marblehead.org with any questions. This is because we used to get paid for our recycling and now we are paying for it to be recycled. This is a large change in cost and expenses on multiple parts of our budget.

7. Transfer Station Update

Andrew discussed still waiting for D.E.P. approval, and the contract with Winter Street Architects for \$231,480.00. He mentioned that people need to be aware that there will be a lot of interruptions at the station during construction. The idea is trying to keep it open and operational as much as possible.

MOTION: Joanne moved for the allocation of \$231,480.00 to approve the contract with Winter Street Architects, Additional Services Number Twelve. Tom seconded the motion. All in favor, passed.

Tom questioned Andrew about the guidelines for D.E.P. for construction demolition and commercial construction materials. If there is the request for a sorting floor, there would need to be a feasibility study which would require an article at town meeting.

MOTION: Tom made a motion for commercial trucks to put a very visible line on the back of their trucks. It was not seconded. No vote was made.

8. Director's Report

Fentanyl test strips, Narcan, and educational material are available at the public health nurse's office and she can inform individuals on the kit and proper use. It was suggested that a mailbox be in an accessible area so one can access them discreetly and after hours.

MOTION: Joanne moved to have a mailbox at the Mary Alley Building, with Public Health logo on it for Fentanyl test strips. Tom seconded the motion. All in favor, passed.

Andrew asked members to review the website and bring forward any changes to the next meeting so it could be easier to navigate.

Fall leaf collection schedule has been finalized. Curbside grass & leaf pickup will be posted online and with the newspapers shortly. The dates are the weeks of October 23rd, November 6th, November 27th, December 12th, Then for 2024 April 22nd, May 13th, and June 3rd. Please note: no collection will occur on a legal holiday.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection date was discussed. The first date will be Saturday November 18th, 2023. The next date will be in April of 2024. There is going to be attempts to have 2 a year moving forward. The state has put out a grant for \$250,000.00 to start a hazardous waste facility, but the estimated cost to actually build and operate it would be in excess of 1 million dollars.

There are 2 clinics coming up for Flu shots. The flu clinics are high dose at the C.O.A. on September 26 from 9-11 a.m. and on October 11th from 3-6 in the Veterans Affairs Office. You must pre-register, contact the public health nurse with any questions.

Helaine stated there would be a date change on the February meeting from the second Tuesday to Monday February 5th, 2023.

Tom requested a discussion at the next meeting for the new year for an additional meeting per month, for a total of 2.

9. Public Comment Period

MOTION: Tom made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Joanne seconded. All in favor, Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.