



City of Westfield, Massachusetts  
Health Department

Board of Health Meeting  
Room 201  
September 19, 2019

RECEIVED

OCT 10 2019

WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

Present: Juanita Carnes, Chair Teresa Mitchell, M.D. Margaret Doody

Ms. Carnes opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m. The Board began discussing items on the agenda.

Review and Approve Minutes from August 14, 2019 Meeting: The minutes were reviewed and a Motion to Approve the Minutes from the August 14, 2019 meeting was made and seconded.

*The vote was as follows:*

Carnes	--	Yes
Mitchell	--	Yes
Doody	--	Yes

All in favor, the Motion was declared passed.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Ms. Mary O'Connell, 25 Old Park Lane, requested the status of the water issue which was brought before the Board last month. It was explained that, due to other high priority issues needing attention and the amount of material to be reviewed, nothing could be addressed at this time.

Ms. Kathleen Hillman, 179 Susan Drive, cited her concern with the threat of EEE virus. She inquired as to whether or not the City intended to spray for mosquitos. Mr. Rouse explained that it is not a municipal decision, but a state one, based on their testing and risk level determination. Currently, Westfield is not at a critical level and, therefore, will not be sprayed. Ms. Hillman also inquired as to how residents are notified of the blue-green algae blooms, to which Mr. Rouse stated that postings were erected on site. Ms. Hillman also voiced her concern with the PFAS in the drinking water.

Ms. Kristen Mello, 27 Moseley Avenue, expressed her disappointment that the PFAS discussion was not included in the agenda. She went on to state that the ATSDR requested 395 participants for testing and received up to 500. Testing has been completed and results will be forthcoming.

Mr. Wade Rivest, 30 Toledo Avenue, stated that he personally witnessed the testing and release of foam at Barnes Airport, as well as how it was cleaned up thereafter.

**PUBLIC HEALTH:**

Tobacco/Vaping Retail Sales Discussion: The CDC has conducted research into the many lung infection/injury cases and deaths associated with vaping; and the FDA is now enforcing new

regulations in this regard. Because of these new developments, Mr. Rouse felt further discussions should be held amongst the Board members before drafting revisions to the City's current regulations. Inspector Thomas Hibert presented information as to what the federal government, other states and Commonwealth of Massachusetts are recommending pertaining the sale of flavored tobacco and e-cigarettes. He advised that Senator John Keenan of Massachusetts has sponsored a bill to ban all flavored tobacco, including e-cigarettes. Dr. Mitchell offered information from the American Academy of Pediatrics verifying the dangers and risks, based on facts, of e-cigarettes and vaping. Ms. Carnes added facts regarding the number of underage users, types of lung damage and injuries. She believes it is the responsibility of the Board to take immediate action. A motion was made and seconded to draft a letter in support of Senator Keenan's bill.

*The vote was as follows:*

Carnes	--	Yes
Mitchell	--	Yes
Doody	--	Yes

All in favor, the Motion was declared passed.

Mr. Rouse offered several options for the Board to consider. He suggested limiting the square footage of the display area; restricting outdoor advertising; and/or placing a moratorium on new tobacco licenses in the City until new regulations are set. A discussion was held regarding limiting sales to adult-only establishments, of which there are approximately seven.

A motion was made and seconded to place a moratorium on all new tobacco licenses until further notice.

*The vote was as follows:*

Carnes	--	Yes
Mitchell	--	Yes
Doody	--	Yes

All in favor, the Motion was declared passed.

It was suggested that all tobacco licensees be asked to remove any outdoor signage promoting the sale of vape and/or e-cigarette products. Most will comply with this request, however, the zoning enforcement officer can also be asked to enforce this request if needed.

A motion was made and seconded that the Board of Health be put on record that they would support Senator John Keenan's bill.

*The vote was as follows:*

Carnes	--	Yes
Mitchell	--	Yes
Doody	--	Yes

All in favor, the Motion was declared passed.

A motion was made and seconded to prohibit all vape products from anywhere other than adult-only stores pending the drafting of modifications to the tobacco regulations and a public hearing.

*The vote was as follows:*

Carnes	--	Yes
Mitchell	--	Yes
Doody	--	Yes

All in favor, the Motion was declared passed.

It was stated that the revised regulations, as well as the public hearing, would be placed on the November Board of Health meeting agenda, with an effective date of December 1, 2019.

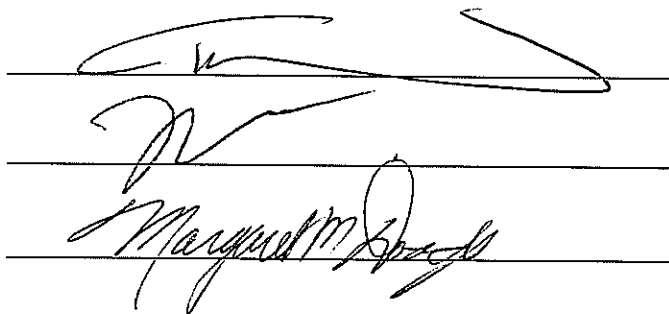
EEE Update: Mr. Rouse advised the Board that, because Westfield is at a low risk for EEE, there is no need to notify schools of this threat. In addition, the weather is getting colder and the mosquito population will diminish once there is a hard frost.

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:**

Blue Green Algae Blooms: A few areas in the City were found to contain this harmful algae; Hampton Ponds, the Sportsman's Club and Arms Brook were identified. This algae is harmful to dogs and can be dangerous to humans if ingested. Signs were placed at the points of entry to Arms Brook. The Sportsman's Club is a private organization and has posted their property accordingly. Hampton Ponds is state-run and has been posted by the State. Should the state ask the city to notify residents surrounding the Ponds, the Health Dept. will do so.

With no further items on the agenda to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Minutes approved by:



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/cam

*Next anticipated meeting date: October 9, 2019*