



**Town of Mendon
Board of Health
20 Main St. Mendon
Minutes for
July 23, 2014**

Chairman Andy Fiske called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Present –Thomas Fichtner - Vice Chairman, Alan Greenberg - BOH member

Location – Copy room of Town Hall – 20 Main Street, Mendon, MA 01756

The Board invited Dr. Leicester Hartman to return to discuss Tobacco 21 in more detail. Andy is very interested in raising the age of purchasing tobacco to 21. He asked the other two Board members what they thought. Tom was interested but not sure if it should be 21. Alan was also interested in changing the age to 21. The Board asked Dr. Hartman what were some of the arguments he has heard from other towns. Dr. Hartman hears more from the convenient stores than residents as to how they will lose business to neighboring towns. The other argument heard is that at 18, you can vote, be drafted, sent to war and be considered a legal adult. Also, store owners say the youth will just go to another town and buy them.

Some reasons for moving the age to 21: Nearly 90% of smokers start smoking by age 20; 90 % of people who purchase tobacco for distribution to minors are between the ages of 18 and 20; scientific evidence showing that the brain does not fully develop until the age of 25. This last fact especially points to the positive of raising the age to 21.

As the discussions continued and questions were asked, all members were in agreement to move forward to change the age from 18 to 21. The Board would like to update their tobacco youth access regulations to include changing the age and also dealing with the e-cigarette phenomenon. Dr. Hartman gave the name of a gentleman who would be interested in helping the Board do just that. Dr. Hartman would be willing to attend any public hearings the Board had but did make a small request that the hearing be on a Monday. That day is better for him.

1 Western Circle Avenue – Update –Andy received a call from Chris Burke (person who lives at 14 Western Circle Ave) about a cleaning crew that was out at 1 Western Circle Ave this past Sunday afternoon. There was about 15 yards worth of trash bags piled up. Chris Burke went to speak with someone who was out there but was unable to get any real information. Andy had told Chris that he wished he would have called him as Andy might have been able to go down with a police officer. During the week, the trash bags were removed but it is unknown by whom. The Board was gratified that clean up progress is at least being made.

Next, Andy spoke to how some other towns handle their installer license processes. Andy proposed to allow Missy to give approval to installers to start their projects after they apply but

the installer license still needs to be approved by the Board. No one had any objections to the idea. So, Tom made a motion to allow Missy to give approval to installers to start their projects after they apply but the installer license still needs to be approved by the Board. Alan seconds the motion. All members agreed. Motion carried.

Andy had received the new recycling calendar and was not happy with the shading. The blue and green are too close in shading for someone who may have difficulty seeing. He would like the colors to be changed next year. The other Board members agreed.

58 North Avenue – The office once again received complaints from Mr. Leonard Ball via email and phone call about the smell of manure coming from his neighbor at 60 North Avenue owned by Mr. Ted Hilliard. Missy told Mr. Ball that she would contact the Animal Inspector Max Carbone to see if he could go out and conduct an inspection and report back to the Board. Missy also invited Mr. Ball to the meeting. Mr. Ball told Missy he was not going to attend the meeting because “he was sick of it and if he sends anyone to the meeting it will be his lawyer”.

Missy contacted Max to go to the two properties to find out if there was any violations and if he would attend the next meeting and give a report to the Board. The Board asked Missy to send letters to both the Mr. Ball and Mr. Hilliard to attend the next meeting so everyone involved can hear Max’s report and try to get to the bottom of the situation.

Next meeting will be August 13, 2014 and August 20, 2014. The August 20th meeting will deal with the senior discount program only.

Tom made a motion to accept adjourn the meeting. Alan seconds the motion. All members agreed. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Approved September 24, 2014