



Dudley Board of Health Meeting Minutes March 15, 2022

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Dudley Board of Health was called to order at 4:41PM by Jennifer Cournoyer, Chairman and the pledge was recited.

Members present: Jennifer Cournoyer -Chairman, Lorri Ducharme

Also Present: Camille Griffin – Health Agent, Joseph Guaragno and Mary O’Grady - Dudley Residents

Boards of Health Tobacco Control Alliance

Jennifer Cournoyer – Unfortunately it doesn’t look like Jodi from the Tobacco Control Alliance was able to make it tonight.

Joseph Guaragno – Request to ban plastic bags

Joseph Guaragno – I have been a resident of Dudley all my life and I am here to ask the board’s support for something I am very passionate about. That is the ban of single-use plastic bags here in town. Single-use plastic bags have proven to be a harmful product for our ecosystem, animals, and humans. They cause the following issues:

- Deaths of animal life through ingestion of plastic mistaken for food
- A major litter problem in waterways, trees, and roadsides.
- The chemicals in the bags are linked to illness and even cancer in humans
- They lack the ability for the material to biodegrade, it takes about 200 years.
- Plus, much more.

Due to the alarming number of negative effects, the town of Dudley must act to ban these products, following the same model that Auburn, MA and 140 other Massachusetts communities have also done. Auburn is the most recent town to accomplish this, and you will see their by-law also attached in the paperwork I have provided to you. Their By-law is exactly what I want to do here in Dudley. The town and residents would have many benefits to banning these bags including:

- Reduced energy usage and waste
- Spurs the market for reusable bags
- Reduce cleanup costs
- Businesses save money and can lower prices
- People can save up to 30.00 a year as the price of goods would go down.

We are entering a new environmental era, where we must take great caution to our current practices and promote a sustainable future for current generations and more to come. The town of Dudley should ban plastic bags to take one step closer to that sustainable future.

Jennifer Cournoyer- (Reads letter from Lisa Berg in support of Joseph’s Initiative to get plastic bags banned in town). I have just a couple of questions for you. Have you thought about encouraging people to bring back

their plastic bags to the store instead of banning the bags completely? My concern is if a store is forced to ban the bags, then they are going to put this cost back on the consumer. The way everything is rising right now is this really a good time to do this to our elderly population. The amount the store would charge them is minimal to people like us but adds up very quickly to the elderly, and Dudley has a large elderly population. Lorri Ducharme – I commend you Joseph for what you are trying to do and I agree with you 100%. I am one of those people who try to use my reusable bags whenever I am shopping. What if we see if the stores are willing to offer the seniors a discount on the reusable bags?

Jennifer Cournoyer – That is a good idea, but I don't know that the stores would get their corporate offices to support something like that. Another issue comes up which is the fact that I just don't have the staff available to enforce a by-law like this. My agent is only with us 10 hours a week. I am working on getting more added to her hours and I am hoping it will happen but right now she is just too busy with other things in town to give this the attention it would need.

Camille Griffin – I absolutely love this initiative. The community I used to work for had a similar ban, so I know that enforcement becomes an issue for other communities as well. I'm curious if there are other communities who have more of an incentive driven initiative rather than penalizing initiatives. I think it's also important for the businesses to be involved in this and have a say as well. Maybe the businesses have some ideas to make more of an incentive program. The enforcement of something like this would just not be possible right now at only 10 hours a week.

Lorri Ducharme – Maybe some more investigative homework and seeing what the thoughts are of the local businesses is what we need you to do right now. Currently the health agent has more serious health concerns that she needs to focus on, so the logistics of doing it this way would just not be possible. Maybe you can get some more information on what businesses and other towns are doing as incentives to recycle their bags more and bring them back to the store. A voluntary program would be a great first effort and step for the town to take.

Mary O'Grady – I commend you very much Joe on your efforts. I think we all agree that we want to protect the environment. As I am looking at this, the problem is the end use. It's not the bags themselves it's where the bags end up. I think that we as a town can be more creative than these other towns who just slap a rule down and think they solved a problem when they don't. People are getting the bags elsewhere and still bringing them into the town. I like the idea of the incentive way. I prefer the carrot over the stick method. We as a town should try to get the alternative through a positive means rather than a quick fix with passing a law. I would love to work with you and trying to come up with ways to solve this problem. I think Dudley can be more creative than other towns and I think it would be more long lasting.

Jennifer Cournoyer – I agree that your research is great, you've done an amazing job. I just feel like we would get a better response if we took a different approach than just telling people they can't use the bags.

Lorri Ducharme – Joseph you should come to our Earth Day and have a table. Take advantage of that day to kick off your incentive program. That is where we try to educate people. We support your effort but as you presented this program, we can't support it at this time.

Joseph – I am open to the incentive option. I just need to know who can help with this project.

Jennifer Cournoyer – We will absolutely help you in every way we can. Let's start with you contacting Amanda for a list of businesses in town. We will also get Amanda to post something on the town's Facebook page. I would start with the bigger businesses right now and see if they are willing to work with us. Let them know we would like to do this without passing a law and monitoring them. We will put this on our next meeting which will be April 26th.

Discussions on Earth Day and Bike Rodeo

Jennifer Cournoyer - Earth Day planning is going well. We already have St Anthony helping. We are going to have some prizes. Everyone who comes and participates in Earth Day will be entered in the drawing. We will

do the drawing at the end and have it on Facebook Live. Dudley the dog will be there. Anyone who wants to participate can contact the Board of Health office.

We are also working on the Bike Rodeo. Saregent Poplawski mentioned possibly using Nichols College. I am currently working on that. I'm hoping by the next meeting to have a definite date and location.

Lorri Ducharme – I have been in contact with Boston Children's Hospital. They have reserved both dates so they will be there. They take over the helmet part of the bike rodeo. They just need a place to park their van and set up their tables. They will bring more helmets and fit all kids for new helmets. I am working on possibly getting someone there that is a BMX rider to maybe put on a demonstration that the kids can watch.

Revisions to Marijuana Regulations

Camille Griffin – What you have is the draft updated version. For the most part the existing regulations were based off the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards template. I do want to specify this is only revising the adult use regulations. I have not addressed the medical regulations at this time. We do have three host agreements in place with the board of selectmen's office and I do know one of them is looking to do a soft opening in the coming weeks. The first change is moving the citation from the last page to the first page. Some grammatical changes also were made. All the terms are capitalized throughout the regulations, so you know it's a defined term. Under Marijuana establishment we are changing the acronym that used to be CNB to CCC for the Cannabis Control Commission. We didn't have the permit definition just the permit holder definition. So, we did add that in. We moved some language around a little bit. Section D5 is an addition. This is part of some other communities' regulations as well. It's requiring the establishment to submit their marijuana disposal plan. As well as the security plan for their dumpster. They will not need to submit that if they are renewing their permit and there were no changes.

Lorri Ducharme – I make a motion to accept the revised regulations

Jennifer Cournoyer – I second the motion

Board Votes – passes unanimously

COVID protocols/Discussion and Public Health Nurse Report

Jennifer Cournoyer – COVID is slowing and there is nothing that has changed since last meeting. We do still have free test kits. Call the office first to make sure Amanda is there before coming down to pick one up.

Health Agent Report/Comments

Camille Griffin – We had our Regional Public Health Nurse and Regional Epidemiologist start. They are both eager to figure out how they can help all the local boards of health. Elissa the public health nurse lives locally. Briana is the epidemiologist but lives in New York, so she is working mostly remotely. We have also extended an offer to a Regional Health inspector. He will require some training, but he is eager to learn and seems like he will be a fast learner. I did hear back from the summer intern program, but we did not get a candidate. There are some other opportunities that I am looking at but right now we don't have anyone. The community health coordinator might be able to help Joseph with his initiative.

Approval of Minutes from February 22, 2022

Lorri Ducharme – I make a motion to approve the minutes from February 22, 2022

Jennifer Cournoyer – I second the motion

Board Votes – passes unanimously

Public/Board Comments

None

Adjourn

Lorri Ducharme I make a motion to adjourn
Jennifer Cournoyer – Seconds the motion
Board Votes – passes unanimously

Meeting adjourns 5:40PM

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Jacobson

Board of Health Clerk