

Dudley Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2023

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Dudley Board of Health was called to order at 5:34PM by Jennifer Cournoyer, Chairman and the pledge was recited.

***Members present:*** Jennifer Cournoyer -Chairman, Roberta Johnson, Lorri Ducharme

Also Present: Camille Griffin – Health Agent, Monique Kay, Ricardo Saudelli with Tobacco Alliance, Govind Patel and Vishnu Patel for Patriot Gas, Marty Nieski, Donna Puchalski, Alexandria Kersey for Marty’s Liquor Store.

**Documents physically identified, discussed, considered, or voted by the Board:**

**Meeting Minutes for February 28, 2023**

**Tobacco Violation Report for Patriot Gas**

**Tobacco Violation Report for Marty’s Liquor**

**Concerns on Trash**

Monique Kay – I am here because I wanted to raise a question about the litter in Dudley and ask if we are consciously aware of the problem.

Jennifer Cournoyer – We are aware of the problem. We do have an Earth Day once a year where we have many groups that go out to clean up the streets of Dudley. We have a boy scout troop that has adopted a stretch of road and clean it up once a month. We try to educate people; we work with the police department the best that we can. We don’t have staff availability to patrol it. If it’s a larger object Highway will go and try to dispose of it. Everything we pick up costs the town to dispose of.

Monique Kay – How long have these plans been in place because its just not working.

Jennifer Cournoyer – We only have the finances to do Earth Day once a year. Our highway department does not have the manpower to go around and pick up trash.

Monique Kay – What about trash receptacles and where are the signs. I’ve talked to the highway department three times about putting signs up. Why aren’t these being put up. I know some don’t’ pay attention to the signs but there are those that do. This is where we live why isn’t there more concern over this.

Jennifer Cournoyer – I am told the no littering signs come directly from the state because they must be worded a certain way, and there is no money in the budget for it. We don’t anyone to even go out and police the no littering. Unfortunately, I have no control over the lack of funding. Unfortunately, the board of health is limited in what we can do regarding trash. Camille can speak to more on that.

Camille Griffin – With housing code we can site the property owner regarding trash. We can send out letter with the orders, but our resources are limited to what complaints we are prioritizing. If someone receives a letter and throws it away it’s the follow up that is difficult with very limited staff resources.

Monique Kay – Thank-you I am going to follow up with the selectmen s office regarding the signs and take the issue to the state if I must.

**Fire Chief and Mace Polymers** – Postponed to next month.

**Public Hearing for Patriot Gas Tobacco Violation**

**Opened at 5:45pm**

Jennifer Cournoyer – We will call up Ricardo from Tobacco Control Alliance

Ricardo Saudelli – January 14, 2023, a compliance check was conducted at this location and at that time there was a sale to a minor. They are on record of having another violation last March. With this violation it does carry a 2000.00 fine and a suspension of the tobacco permit for seven consecutive days.

Govind Patel – We had an employee quitting his job. It was his last week. We tell all our employees to check the ID. I guess he wasn’t paying attention. We also do our own compliance checks all the time. We also got the new system that whenever someone makes a sale it is going to ask them to scan the ID so this shouldn’t happen again.

Jennifer Cournoyer – Unfortunately you as the owner are still responsible for one of your workers making the sale to a minor. It’s a violation of the state and because it is your second offense the seven-day suspension is what happens, and we don’t have a lot of control with that. It’s a required suspension.

Ricardo Saudelli – the suspension is scheduled to start this Friday 03/24/2023 and will run to 03/30/2023. All tobacco products must be completely covered and out of public view and a sign must be posted to say no tobacco sales with the dates.

Jennifer Cournoyer – Just so you are aware if you get another violation, it’s a 5000.00 fine and a permit suspension of 30 days. Hopefully with the new system there will be no more issues, so you don’t get to that point of the bigger fine. We can not lower the suspension. This is why we have the tobacco control alliance so they can take care of this for us.

Monique Kay – Are you following state guidelines or local guidelines. Are you able to not suspend it on them. I just ask because it seems like there is no room for human error here.

Camille – Local regulations can be stricter than state laws however we can not be less strict the state regulations.

**Public Hearing Marty’s Liquor Store**

**Opened at 5:54**

Ricardo Saudelli – January 14, 2023, compliance check was conducted with a sale to a minor. There are no other violations in the past 36 months, so they fall under the first violation which is the 1000.00 fine and permit suspension for three days.

Marty Nieski – I don’t come here to ask to overturn this. I do ask that the suspension run on a Monday Tuesday Wednesday.

Jennifer Cournoyer - Our representative from the control alliance said that it must start on a Friday.

Marty Nieski– We know what happened and it was an odd set of circumstances. I have been in business since 1977 and I’ve been through dozens of these stings. They are very dirty during these stings. The girl came in and was talking it up and trying to distract the employee who was already sick. They didn’t just come in and ask for a pack of cigarettes. This isn’t fair the way they run these things. They don’t play by the rules. We have the video of the incident we know what exactly happened.

Jennifer Cournoyer – I appreciate your concerns but unfortunately you may have a teenager that comes in and tries that. Just a reminder you still do have the fine of 1000.00.

Ricardo Saudelli – The penalties are automatically implemented for any business that did not come to contest. Any questions for Joan you can call her anytime and she will get you answers you need. During the permit suspension the inspector will go in the first day to make sure they are doing it. We also send a secret shopper in as well to ensure compliance. You will get follow up if the retail location was in violation during the suspension. Otherwise you can call the office anytime to inquire about how things went.

**Discussion/Updates on Bike Rodeo**

Robert Johnson – I’m still waiting to hear back from the company on sunscreen. They are in Australia and took awhile last time but I will try them again. No other updates.

**Discussion/Updates on Earth Day**

Jennifer Cournoyer – It is April 22nd 8-12 at the Town Highway Garage. If you would like supplies, bags, gloves, etc. beforehand you can contact the board of health office at 508-949-8012 and Amanda will be able to get you some stuff. You can also come that morning. Please let us know if you have a group or a specific area you would like to clean up.

**Public Health Nurse Report/Comments**

Robert Johnson – None

**Health Agent Report/Comments**

Camille Griffin – Overall COVID cases have been down in Dudley. The vaccine initiative is coming to an end on March 31, 2023. The state is still available to help with any mobile clinics they just won’t have that incentive tied to it. Our epidemiologist was able to breakdown all of our infectious diseases for 2022. We had:

136 Influenza

8 Food Borne

36 Tick Borne

1424 COVID

We are having great success with ALSCO Food Check Group. They have inspected 17 Food Establishments so far and have conducted 3 reinspection’s so far. I have heard really great things about the reinspection’s they have done. The managers are proud to show them the improvements they have made.

Lastly Mass Health Members will need to renew their coverage soon. There is going to be a lot of people statewide that could be dropped. We have a flyer that we can post to show mass health members what they need to do.

**Approval of Minutes February 28, 2023**

Roberta Johnson, I make a motion to approve the minutes from February 28, 2023

Jennifer Cournoyer – Seconds the motion.

Roberta Johnson Aye

Jennifer Cournoyer Aye

Lorri Ducharme – abstains.

**Public/Board Comments**

Lorri – when we will address the body works regulations again? Is there a new business that opened.

Camille Griffin – There could be unfortunately we didn’t have regulations out yet, so we don’t have a permitting process.

Jennifer Cournoyer – we will get that back on the agenda and work on it again.

Jennifer – spring is coming everyone be safe. If you need a bike helmet, contact the board of health office for a free bike helmet. 508-949-8012.

**Adjournment**

Lorri Ducharme makes a motion to adjourn

Roberta Johnson– seconds the motion

Board Votes – Passes Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 6:12

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Jacobson

Board of Health Clerk