

**MINUTES
LONGMEADOW BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

Monday, November 14, 2005, 7:30 P.M. Longmeadow Fire Station Community Rm

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Dr. Robert Rappaport, Chair. BOH members present were Maripat Toye, RN, Dr. Barry Izenstein, and Dr. Michael Coppola. Beverly Hirschhorn, CHO, Longmeadow Health Director, was also present.

- I. Public comment was taken at the beginning of this meeting. Dr. John Papale, Longmeadow resident and member of board of selectmen, spoke on consideration of lowering the amount of fluoridation in the Longmeadow water system and on offering the possibility if the selectmen should put a non-binding referendum on a town ballot for vote on water fluoridation program.

Eleanor Stolar, Longmeadow resident, spoke on her concerns about the town's legal liability from possible injury to town residents from the fluoride in the water. Ms. Stolar requested the BOH plan open forums to discuss both sides of the water fluoridation issue.

Mr. Joel Acute, a Longmeadow resident from 24 Hawthorne St., expressed a non-binding referendum would be helpful to understand the entire town's vote on this issue.

BOH members would like to see the peer reviewed evidenced based clinical research that shows documentation of harm from fluoridation from the residents who site research exists.

- II. The minutes of the Board of Health meeting from September 26, 2005 were unanimously accepted and approved without amendment.

III. CHO Updates and Reports:

A. Communicable Disease reports:

- Influenza vaccine doses received from MA DPH total 990; 220 more doses were purchased as well. Most have already been administered to the elderly, residents of the Jewish Nursing Home, Spectrum and Glen Meadow. Doses also available for eligible town employees.
- Pneumococcal vaccine continues to be available to eligible high risk groups and those over 65 years of age.
- West Nile virus was positive in one bird from town.
- Lyme disease reports are followed weekly by Bev. Documentation of IGM & IGG response is followed in potential cases.
- Varicella-cases of varicella noted after administration of varicella vaccine.
- Pertussis cases noted in more adolescents.

B. Septic System inspection and repairs to system at 74 Dunn Road reviewed. Bev will follow up with D.E.P. to clarify some of the proposed design issues and concerns of the BOH.

C. Ansul system at Bertucci's Restaurant caused concern over its design and possible failure on its operation. Bev has been to inspect and follow up on the installation of a proper fire suppression system.

IV. New Business

A. Allegations of discharge of on-site system into the Connecticut River by a resident was discussed in detail. Mike Rabel and DPW engineers went to inspect the area in response to this allegation. They confirm there was no flow from public sewers and saw no evidence of release of sewage. Bev will follow up with a letter to Selectmen that we have no proof of these allegations. We need probable cause and evidence before we could demand inspections of all private systems in the area. The BOH recommends the resident bring proof of the allegations before the BOH.

B. Former solid waste disposal sites have ongoing inspections. The town has hired an environmental consultant to inspect and provide ground water studies and results of the inspections to the town.

C. Fluorescent bulb recycling issues need to be more promoted in town, Bev has worked on educational approaches as providing fact sheets on proper disposal of fluorescent light bulbs as she does inspections at area business'. BOH considering a "compliance standard" for business owners and providing a written policy to educate them and mandate they follow proper disposal procedures. BOH is considering having business owners sign off on receiving copies of this policy and its requirements. BOH is available to assist business in understanding this policy.

D. Bev reviewed the new Tobacco grant effective Jan 06 through June 07. The grant deliverables have not changed: the emphasis will be on compliance checks and inspections of public (work)places subsequent to smoking complaints.

At the next meeting in December the Board will review proposed amendments to the existing local youth access regulations. The Board will decide whether to keep the existing provisions or to strengthen the provisions. At minimum, the District Court Magistrate and legal counsel for DPH have suggested that the regulations be put in a consolidated format. Presently the Board has four youth access regulations passed individually over a 7 year time period. Multiple regulations on the same issue have created legal issues in regard to enforcement.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maripat Toye, RN, MS

Longmeadow BOH