

MARBLEHEAD BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES, September 3, 2019

Present: Chm. Helaine Hazlett, Todd Belfbecker, Michelle Gottlieb (via video), Andrew Petty, Director

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm

Helaine announced that the meeting was being recorded.

MOTION to approve the fowl permit application of Larissa Bitano of 24 Norman Street. All in favor and motion passed.

Michelle remarked that the subject of leaf blowers has been brought up to the Board of Health in the past, and the Board spoke in favor of the leaf blower seasonal ban at Town Meeting 2013.

Beth Grader of 9 Mill Pond came before the Board to discuss her concerns of the health effects of two stroke gas powered leaf blowers. She mentioned that five communities in Massachusetts have set restrictions on leaf blower usage. The cities participating are: Arlington, Cambridge, Lincoln, Brookline and Newton. Myra Sussman of 24 Pearl Street also joined her as she approached this subject last year at Town Meeting.

Jamie Banks, PhD, MS founder and executive director of Quiet Communities gave a power point presentation on leaf blowers entitled Noise, Pollution, and Health. She explained the industry guidelines regarding dust, noise and time of day. "Typically, when leaf blowers are used they are out of compliance. Also, they produce deafening noise, toxic/carcinogenic exhaust, and harmful ground sourced particulates". Quiet Communities is suggesting that the Board set restrictions on the use of leaf blowers. The Board asked several questions after the presentation and then opened it up to the floor.

Lynn Nadeau of 10 Surf Street suggested a sub-committee of landscapers is formed to discuss their thoughts and ideas on leaf blowers.

Also in the audience were: Buck Grader 9 Mill Pond
Rita March 9 Flint Street
Rose McCarthy 23 Robert Road

Helaine thanked Rose, Buck, Rita, Beth, Myra and Lynn for coming this evening and for all they do for the town.

The Board decided to invite Marblehead landscapers to a future meeting to discuss leaf blowers.

Director's Report:

- Dog health issues have come up recently in the area of Hobbs field. We are working with local veterinarian offices to monitor the situation.
- Marblehead is a low risk area for the mosquito borne virus of EEE which is shown in state and county.
- A Cease and Desist order was sent to 153 Village Street for boat work that was being done without proper protection.
- Two more weeks of beach water testing for the year.
- STD numbers come from the state epidemiologist on each town in Massachusetts.

- September is Emergency Preparedness Month.
- Saturday, September 7th there could be some heavy rain in the southeast coast area due the storm from the south.

MOTION to approve meeting minutes of August 6, 2019 as corrected. All in favor and motion passed.

New Business:

Andrew read a letter aloud from John Crowley of 37 Chestnut Street asking about waiving the fee for facility stickers for seniors. Helaine said that the Board will provide an abatement when asked.

Helaine told the Board that CVS is celebrating five years of not selling tobacco products. They have donated \$50 million dollars in research and education of the use tobacco products.

Todd discussed the recent lung injuries in teenagers as a result from vaping.

MOTION to close meeting. All in favor and motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Andrea Flaxer
Senior Clerk