



Hudson Board of Health

78 Main Street
Hudson, MA 01749
(978) 562-2020

MINUTES

March 19, 2024
5:30 pm
Hudson Town Hall
3rd Floor Conference Room

Board Members: Michael Delfino, Cassia Monteiro, Allyson O'Malley

1. Preliminaries:

- a. **Call Meeting to Order** – Mr. Delfino called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.
- b. **Approval of Minutes from 1.23.2024** – Ms. Monteiro motioned to approve the minutes from 1.23.2024. Ms. O'Malley seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0.

2. **Vouchers to be Approved:** Ms. Monteiro motioned to approve the vouchers. Ms. O'Malley seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0.

3. ***The Control and Keeping of Animals Regulation:*** It has been determined by town council that the BoH is not required to have a public hearing as we will not be changing existing regulations. Instead the Health Department will be implementing a permitting process. It is not our intention to ban the keeping of chickens. We only wish to ensure they are properly maintained. *Keeping of Fowl* is #5 in the regulations. Permits issued will be for two years at which time there will be a renewal process. Applicants will need to provide a sketch of coop or enclosure. They will need to abide by zoning setbacks and specs for coop/enclosure. Town council along with the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards assisted with required documentation needed to secure permits. The Health Department is looking at a July 1st date to begin permitting process. Our main goal is to have a centralized list of locations that have chickens. This will help us be more proactive when it comes to complaints. It is our recommendation that pest control documentation be required. This can be in the form of a contract with professional pest control companies or property owner pest control. For example, proof of bait box purchase. We would also require permit holders to notify the Health Department of any changes, increase in chicken numbers etc. The fee for these permits will likely be \$25.00. Free for those 70 and older. Ms. O'Malley motions to add one pager to *The Control and Keeping of Animals Regulation*. This document includes the new permitting process for the keeping of chickens effective July 1st, 2024. Permits will be good for two years. Applications must include supporting documentation of mandatory pest control, sketch of coop/enclosure. The fee schedule of \$25 for 2-year permit, free for residents 70 and older. Ms. Monteiro seconded, and the motion passed 3-0.

4. **Community Fridge Initiative:** The Health Department spearheaded this initiative due to the rise of food insecurity. More people are taking advantage of the Mobile Food Pantry. This program is in collaboration with Open Table. It is our belief that daily access to food is a human right. Not all people have transportation, and there is limited public transportation here in town. 1 in 5 white households, 1 in 3 black households, and 1 in 3 Latino households are food insecure. 58% of people who are eligible for SNAP are not accessing the program. 52% of people eligible for WIC are also not accessing. There needs to be more outreach and advocacy for people to take advantage of these programs especially within the senior community which has higher number of those not accessing these programs. This initiative is rooted in mutual aid. The community fridge would also reduce waste. The fridge would be open 24/7. Take what you need, leave what you can.

Possible location would be Avidia Bank alcove. This location is covered and has electricity. Another possible location is the Food Pantry. Unfortunately, there is limited space there. The Health Department is looking at a June/July launch. Hudson Rotary looking to be the main sponsor of the initiative. We are also hoping to get Assabet Valley Regional Technical School onboard as well as the Hudson Public Schools as they have a great deal of produce left over at the end of the week from school lunches.

5. **Native Sun Annual Report:** Native Sun Wellness submitted their required annual report on January 17th, 2024. This is required by state law and they share this report with the Town of Hudson's Health Department. Native Sun is one of two dispensaries in Hudson the other being Temescal Wellness.

6. **Staffing Update:**

- a. The new full-time YSAP Coordinator started 3.4.2024. We are happy to have Mr. Mike Rugg onboard. Mike comes from the Hudson Boys and Girls Club where he was Director.
- b. The new full-time MWSPHS Coordinator started 3.19.2024. We are pleased to have Ms. Karina Scott onboard. Karina is coming from the Worcester Health Department where she held the position of Shared Service Coordinator.
- c. The Health Department is now fully staffed.

Adjournment:

Ms. Monteiro motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:04 pm. Ms. O'Malley seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0.

Next Meeting:

April 9th, 2024 at 5:30pm at Hudson Town Hall 3rd Floor Conference Room

May 2nd, 2024 at 5:30pm at Hudson Town Hall 3rd Floor Conference Room