



BOARD OF HEALTH

# TOWN OF WESTBOROUGH MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN HALL  
34 WEST MAIN STREET  
WESTBOROUGH, MA 01581-1916

TEL. (508) 366-3045

FAX (508) 366-3047

## Board of Health Meeting Minutes September 19, 2023

The Board of Health held a meeting at 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at the Memorial Hall located at 34 West Main Street, Westborough, MA.

**Board of Health:** Chair Mahr, Member Walsh, Member Ehrlich, Director Sullivan, Sanitarian Gauthier, Health Inspector Goncalves and Administrative Assistant Main

**Audience** – Donald Gilbert, Boyd Conklin 8 Water St., Mike Li and Kenzo Phan owners Sapporo and Brian Jackson GM Sapporo

Chair Mahr called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

### Open Comment

- Boyd Conklin would like to have the Gold Club put on the Town warrant, stating it should not be torn down as repairs have been made. He also would like to see mask mandates, remote learning and possible business closures due to Covid on the town warrant.
- Donald Gilbert spoke about first amendment rights.

### Administrative Assistant Introduction

- Director Sullivan introduced Donna Main, Board of Health Administrative Assistant to the board.

### Unsupported Migrant Families

- Director Sullivan gave an update to the board on the Unsupported Migrants being housed in Westborough.
- We currently have 9 families and are expecting 13 more in October.
- All the families so far have received benefits.
- Immunizations, lead and TB testing will be done on September 20, 2023.

- The children have been placed in schools.
- Member Walsh asked if we had support from the National Guard. Director Sullivan confirmed that the town does have a National Guardsman that is working with us and in fact they were so impressed with the efforts from the Town that they are using Westborough as a model for other locations.
- Chair Mahr asked how many migrants are in the state?
- Director Sullivan replied

### **Approval of July 25, 2023 Minutes**

- The agenda was taken out of order for timing.

Member Walsh motioned to accept the minutes of July 25, 2023; Member Erlich seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed **3-0**

### **Directors Report**

Member Walsh motioned to accept the Directors Report, Member Erlich seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed **3-0**

### **Sanitarian Report**

- Member Erlich asked about the rodent issue at Taco Bell
- Sanitarian Gauthier reported that they took all of the right steps in ensuring there was not an infestation and were able to open the next day with no further issues.
- Sanitarian Gauthier mentioned that rodents are a widespread issue due to all of the rain lately.
- Member Erlich asked if we have any electronic communication with local restaurants to inform them of such issues.
- Sanitarian Gauthier said we don't currently do that mostly because of the turnover rates in the industry.
- Member Erlich mentioned that we may want to start a newsletter or some kind of communication.

Member Erlich motioned to accept the Sanitarian Report, Member Walsh seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed **3-0**

### **Health Inspector Report**

- Chair Maher asked if everything was cleaned up at Dollar Tree
- Inspector Goncalves said that everything was cleaned, and all holes were patched.
- Chair Maher asked about the conditions at Tavolino
- Inspector Goncalves said again that everything was cleaned, and holes were all patched. She also said that they are being very proactive, the management company has pest control and the restaurant itself also hired a second pest control company and they are very diligent about cleaning.

Member Walsh motioned to accept the Health Inspector report, Member Erlich seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed **3-0**

### **E.L. Harvey's/ Waste Connections**

- Director Sullivan stated that they have single stream belts to install on both sides, to reduce the amount of waste produced and increase recycling.
- There is a possibility of the town providing curbside recycling.
- There will be no RFP at this time for curbside pickup.
- The town is looking to extend the contract with E.L. Harvey for 3-5 years.
- Chair Maher asked how we were going to communicate changes to the residents.
- Director Sullivan said that we are not at that point yet.

- Member Erlich asked if the issue was on the Warrant for the Fall Town Meeting?
- Director Sullivan said she did not see it on the warrant.

### **Sandra Pond Discussion**

- Director Sullivan mentioned that the Town is moving forward on something, however it is in the Select Boards hands right now.
- Member Walsh said that the biggest concern is protecting the water supply and as long as they satisfy the Board of Health, they will be happy with what they do.

### **Household Hazardous Waste Day**

- The next Household Hazardous Waste Day is October 28, 2023, from 8 AM to 11:30 AM
- There was no list of accepted items on hand but Sanitarian Gautier was able to give examples of items NOT accepted:
  - No latex paint
  - No electronics
  - No tires
  - No medications or sharps

### **Sapporo**

- Member Walsh was very concerned about the email from Bud and would like to hear from BOH staff first.
- Director Sullivan went over some of the issues most recently found.
  - The hood has been out of compliance for some time.
  - Extension cords were being used to power equipment such as coolers.
  - Sushi items were improperly labeled with incorrect dates.
  - The freezer is not keeping temp and is dripping, possibly contaminating food.
  - An employee was seen hiding a very dirty pan in with clean dishes when inspectors entered.
  - Walls have been built with no permits or notifications to the Building Department or the BOH.
  - Some items have been removed from the loading area out back but there are now new items out there.
  - Conditions have significantly gone downhill in just one month.
- Mike Li-Owner Sapporo states that significant changes have been made. He has brought on a partner, Kenzo Phan and a new GM Brian Jackson to help.
- The hood is expected to be repaired tonight,9/19.
- He addressed the pan and said it only looked like that because of the sauce in the dish. He denied that the employee hid it.
- The date stickers were a simple mistake and will not happen again.
- He denied the temperature issues that were found during the inspection and said that he replaced the thermometer, and it was at the correct temp.
- Kenzo Phan is the majority owner now and has plans to simplify the menu.
- Kenzo is also planning to reduce the amount and replace equipment.
- Brian Jackson-GM said that there will be professional cleaners in 2X weekly and all cleaning and maintenance will be documented and submitted to the BOH.

- Mike took responsibility for all of the issues found.
- Director Sullivan explained that since Kenzo is now the majority owner new site plan reviews and permits would have to be issued.
- Member Walsh asked how long Brian and Kenzo have been with Mike and how much of this have they seen?
- Brian has only been working with him for 3 days, Kenzo has known Mike for some time but has also just recently come on board.
- Discussions continued regarding the status of the food permit and sushi variance.
- Member Erlich mentioned he is not comfortable issuing a Sushi variance until a good track record is established.
- Chair Maher also expressed her concern and discomfort.
- Director Sullivan does not feel comfortable offering her support to this location any longer.
- Member Erlich asked if they planned to shut down while work is being done to correct the issues.
- Brian said he thinks all the work can be done in a weeks' time.

Member Walsh motions to pull the food permit and they can reapply under new ownership once a successful opening inspection is completed by Director Sullivan. A Sushi variance can be issued once a good track record is established.

Member Erlich seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed, **3-0**

Next BOH meeting to be held October 17, 2023, at 5:45 PM.

Member Ehrlich moved to adjourn at 6:47 p.m. Member Walsh second the motion. All in favor, motion passed **3-0**.