

**TOWN OF MILTON**  
**MEETING MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH**  
January 6, 2025 @ 7 p.m. via Zoom

**In Attendance:**

Laura T. Richards, Esq., Chair

Mary F. Stenson, R.N., BSN, Secretary

Roxanne Musto, RN-C, MS, ANP, Member

Caroline Kinsella, BSN, RN, RS, Health Director, Public Health Nurse

Emily Connors, MPH, B.S. Public Health, Assistant Health Director

Karolyn Ho, B.S. Public Health, Health Agent

Jean M. Peterson, Senior Administrative Clerk

**1. Administrative Tasks:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm. Minutes from December 2, 2024 were approved. There were three participants for Citizen Speak regarding the proposed Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 Regulation change bylaws. Peter Brennan, a resident of Cape Cod Lane spoke to oppose changes to the Bylaw to purchase nicotine products. He is also a member of the N.E. Convenience Store Association. He is concerned that changes in the Bylaw will result in purchases made on the illicit market and that the Bylaw will harm Town businesses. Stephen Helfer spoke addressing smokers' rights and stated that teen smoking is low per the CDC. He does not want storeowners to be burdened by these restrictions and asked that the Board consider the effect that the ban would have on minorities. Jonathan Bowen spoke against changes to the Bylaws stating that smoking helps him to focus and that people should be allowed to smoke if they choose to do so. The following documents were included in the packets: Agenda; December 2, 2024 Minutes; Health Director's Recommendations; letter to Governor Healy/officials regarding hospital closures and a request for an immediate health care audit of the South Shore /Norfolk County region; Letter from Cynthia Baker, BME Strategies Health Consultant, regarding an opioid abatement collaborative; Letter to Board of Health and Select Board from N.E. Convenience Store Association regarding sale of nicotine products; Report from Health Agent Karolyn Ho; Milton Board of Health Regulations prohibiting smoking in workplace; Chapter 6 Smoking and workplace, public place and membership associations; Sale of Tobacco to Minors Chapter 5 Regulations; Regulations of Milton Board of Health restricting sale of tobacco products; Press Release-Partnership for Healthy Milton Inc.; Milton Coalition update dated 12/26.

**2. Discussion/approval of Healthcare capacity audit letter:**

The Health Director read the Health Care Capacity Audit letter to the Board regarding the impact to areas south of Boston due to hospital closures. The Board approved of the letter and would like the letter distributed to Governor Healy and government officials as soon as possible. The Board suggested that the Milton Fire Chief should be included in signing the

letter. One edit was recommended by Chair Richards. The Board approved the letter unanimously.

**3. Board of Health discussion of additional proposed regulation changes to the Board of Health regulations, Chapter 5 “Sale of Tobacco Products to Minors” and Chapter 6 Board of Health Regulations, “Smoking in Workplaces, Public Places, and Membership Association”:**

The Board continued their conversation from the December 2nd meeting about Chapters 5 and 6 Tobacco Regulations. They discussed which language should remain, be changed or omitted. Lisa Stevens Goodnight, Tobacco Control Director from the Massachusetts Municipal Association participated in the meeting to advise the Board.

**4. Health Director’s Report:**

\*Preparations are being made for the Community Health Planning Forum scheduled for January 15<sup>th</sup> at the Council on Aging building. The Health Director invited Board members to attend.

\*A Milton Health Department Radon Awareness Campaign for January included a webinar with Massachusetts Department of Public Health Stefanie Santora on January 28<sup>th</sup> via Zoom in collaboration with “Partnership for a Healthy Milton”.

\*NC-8 discussion about forming an opioid abatement collaborative.

\*Job reclassification updates. The Senior Administrative Clerk requested a reclassification and a step increase in pay as the Health Department has taken on many additional grants and mental health initiatives over the last few years, resulting in the workload of said position to expand significantly. The request was denied by the Town’s consultant and the Senior Administrative Clerk was required to pay a \$75.00 fee at her own expense to cover the Town’s consulting services.

During the meeting, Member Musto informed the Board that she asked the Milton Fire Chief to submit an article to the Milton Times in an effort to raise awareness of the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning. Member Musto also inquired as to whether the Health Department has continued to write health-related articles of interest for the Milton Times. Ms. Musto asked the Health Director about the bird flu situation. The Health Director replied that there is a call with the State scheduled for tomorrow to discuss bird flu. Secretary Stenson informed the Board about a new virus developing in China.

**5. Next meeting date and adjournment**

The next meeting date is scheduled for March 3, 2025 via Zoom. The meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

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Mary F. Stenson, R.N., BSN, Secretary

