

**BRAINTREE BOARD OF HEALTH**

**MINUTES**

**September 4, 2008**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Dr. Philip Nedelman, Chairman  
Dr. Mark Samuelson, Vice-Chairman  
Paula Dowd, Clerk

**ALSO PRESENT:** Marybeth McGrath, Director of ML & I

Dr. Nedelman called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**MINUTES:**

**Motion By:** Dr. Samuelson to approve the minutes of July 10, 2008.  
**Second By:** Paula Dowd  
**Unanimously Voted**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Draft # 3- Community Health Opinion Survey of Braintree**

Ms. McGrath advised the Board that the minor language changes requested in the Community Health Survey have been made in draft # 3 for their review.

She further advised that once this draft is approved by the Board, the next step would be to bring it before the Mayor's Health & Wellness Advisory Committee before moving it forward to the Mayor.

**Motion By:** Paula Dowd to approve draft # 3 of the Community Health Survey.  
**Second By:** Dr. Samuelson  
**Unanimously Voted**

The Board requested that Ms. McGrath schedule a meeting of the Mayor's Health & Wellness Advisory Committee on Thursday October 2, 2008 at 6:00pm.

Ms. McGrath advised the Board that she will schedule a meeting and make contact with all of the committee members.

Dr. Nedelman advised that with the passing of Dr. Jernegan, who was appointed to the Health & Welless Advisory Committee it leaves a vacancy on the committee.

Mrs. Dowd advised that she would recommend Ms. Mulready, Public Health Nurse for the vacancy as she is very familiar with the community and health issues.

The Board agreed with Mrs. Dowd's suggestion.

Dr. Nedelman requested that Ms. McGrath contact Mayor Sullivan to offer this Board of Health recommendation for his consideration of this vacancy.

## **2. Review of draft Town of Braintree Vegetation Management Plan (VMP)**

Ms. McGrath advised the Board that the Department of Public Works is considering a vegetation management plan for the Town. This proposed plan is for the control of vegetation growth in public areas, such as sidewalks, roadways. This plan would not involve private properties. It would incorporate the use of mowing of grass, trimming and control of weeds, filling of sidewalk/street cracks, herbicides use, etc. In order to apply any type of herbicide, the Town must submit a Vegetation Management Plan to the Commonwealth of MA Bureau of Pesticide for approval. Once approved, the Town must then submit an annual plan.

As an example, the MA Highway Department and the railroad submit an annual vegetation management plans each year to the state for their right-of-ways.

If approved by the state, this plan would be implemented by the Town under the direction of a licensed pesticide applicator, who currently works within the Department of Public Works at the Golf Course.

The plan would not eliminate mowing of grass, trimming and control of weeds, filling of sidewalk/street cracks. The use of herbicides would be to supplement these methods as a last resort, if necessary.

The Board expressed a concern about the types of herbicides that would be utilized and if they could get into ground water.

Ms. McGrath advised that as part of this plan they must identify all water wells in the Town, and they cannot apply herbicides within a certain distance to a well.

Ms. McGrath further advised that the approval of vegetation management plans are not an uncommon practice.

Ms. McGrath advised that the Department of Public Works is seeking the endorsement of the Board of Health of this proposed vegetation management plan. The Department of Public Works will also need to seek the endorsement of the Conservation Commission before it is forwarded to Mayor Sullivan for approval.

Dr. Samuelson requested that the Board be provided with the annual vegetation management herbicide usage report, if this plan is approved by the state and implemented.

**Motion By:** Paula Dowd to endorse the proposed Town of Braintree Vegetation Management Plan with the condition that the Board of Health receive a copy of the annual usage report.  
**Second By:** Dr. Samuelson  
**Unanimously Voted**

**INFORMATIONAL:**

**3. Review of 2008 Beach Testing Season Data**

Ms. McGrath reviewed the test result data for the 2008 beach season at Smith Beach and Sunset Lake with the Board of Health.

Mrs. Dowd inquired about weed control activities at Sunset Lake.

Ms. McGrath advised the Board that the Conservation Commission oversees the weed control. She further advised that it has not been done in a few years, but believes that it being looked into for this coming year.

**4. 2008 Flu Clinics**

Ms. McGrath advised that we have not received our state supplied vaccine allotment from MDPH as of this date. We have received a portion of the vaccine we purchased. Additionally, 20 doses of the 350 flu vaccine purchased will be thimerisol free flu vaccine that will be made available to pregnant women.

Ms. McGrath advised that once all of the flu vaccine is received, the department will be scheduling the flu clinics.

Mrs. Dowd advised the Board that the school department and School Committee have decided to spray the recreational fields at the High School starting October 1, 2008 and continuing until the first frost. They will be working with the Norfolk County Mosquito Control Project to accomplish the spraying. This will provide the opportunity to utilize the fields for night sports games/activities. The spraying will occur the Thursday before an event. She further advised that all required notifications have been made to parents, etc.

Ms. McGrath advised the Board that there have been no positive mosquitoes, birds or human cases of WNV or EEE reported in Braintree.

**Motion By:** Mrs. Dowd to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm  
**Second By:** Dr. Samuelson