

Regular Meeting
Milford Board of Health
August 16, 2022

Members Present: Leonard Izzo, Chairman, Paul Mazzuchelli and Kenneth Evans
Others Present: Michael Szczepan/EL Harvey, Lisa Tamagni, Interim Director of Public Health and Joan Clarico, Minute Clerk

At 4:30 Chairman Leonard Izzo called the meeting to order.

Pay as You Throw

Chairman Leonard Izzo suggested we speak with Diane from the Upton Board of Health to get more information on these. This discussion was Tabled.

EL Harvey Contract

Michael Szczepan, representative from EL Harvey was discussing the addendum to the contract. He is re-writing specifics with Town council Gerry Moody. Due to the increase cost of tonnage at the waste management facility the Board is considering other options such as 95 Gallon totes for recycling and household waste as well as eliminating bulk waste as part of the regular curbside pickup. These items are not ordinary household waste. The target date for this is January 1st 2023. These items could still be picked up by calling EL Harvey directly to arrange pick up and payment through them directly.

Leonard Izzo, Chairman said that The BOH is always actively working to reduce the amount of tonnage to keep the tonnage down. Some of the programs that have been implemented was textile recycling and the most recent program that started March 1, 2020, was the recycling of mattresses and box springs. The Board of Health is taking this very seriously and working hard to reduce tonnage and keep the rubbish and recycling funded off the tax base, where a bag fee or user's fee will not be necessary.

Task Force/Rodent Control

Lisa Tamagni, Interim Director, updated the Board of the uprise in rodent citing complaints in Milford. These rodent sightings are widespread in town. Through these complaints we have been doing more inspections and looking for conducive conditions in and around the home that play a part in having a rodent problem.

Conducive conditions are overgrown landscape, trash not covered and unpermitted chicken coups. Trees, bushes, gardens, and bird feeders around the home provide a food source for rodents. Identification and elimination of these enticements are the first step in rodent control.

Construction on roads can also play a part in having a rodent problem. Construction tends to move the rodents around as their current home is being disturbed. With global warming the rodent's reproductive cycle is extended. We have been sending letters to educate the residents, also correction letters to

homeowners that need to maintain their properties better. We will cite the homeowner if violations are not corrected.

Board member Paul Mazzuchelli explained that the increase in rodents, including rats, is not uncommon throughout most communities in New England and other parts of the country. Milder winters, less predators, less food source due to food establishment closures due to pandemic and areas that were their habitat are now being developed with housing. This is not unique to Milford, rats have always been here and everywhere (they are not extinct like the dinosaur), just like where we are seeing more wild turkeys, foxes, bears deer, etc. in residential areas, that we never saw in the past. Wildlife does what they can to survive, especially when their food source and habitat is disrupted.

When rats are increasing and staying in a neighborhood there is a sanitation problem somewhere in the neighborhood. That is when code enforcement would inspect the area and if a condition is found that would be conducive to the rodent, then enforcement would take place. First through education, then through a board of health or zoning order to correct. Getting to the source of the infestation is good pest control and that is done through good sanitation practices, not poisons.

Paul Mazzuchelli, Board Member, spoke of the importance of re-instituting the Task Force consisting of The Board of Health, Fire, Police and The Building Department. Over the last 2-3 years many areas of the Town have been neglected because of COVID-19, less frequent inspections, and uncaring landlords.

Moving forward The Board of Health will be working closely with the landlords to address and correct the violations. Paul Mazzuchelli said that any landlord that is not compliant will be given their due process and if necessary, fined according. He also said he would send their names to the media.

Meeting adjourned at 5:18

Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted by Joan Clarico, Minutes Clerk