

## BOARD OF HEALTH

## MINUTES

2-22-2024

3rd floor Auditorium, Town Hall, 30 Martin Street, Essex, MA

Present: Dr. David Driscoll, Chair, Ms. Sally Rich, Clerk, Dr. Fares Mouchantaf, Member, Jeff Thomas, Administrative Clerk.

Absent: Ms. Erin Kirchner, Board of Health Administrator.

Ms. Sally Rich entertained a motion to start the meeting that is being recorded at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Fares Mouchantaf seconded. **Vote: All in Favor**

- **Appointments**

None

- **Minutes**

11-16-23 Minutes – Dr. David Driscoll entertained a motion to approve the Board of Health meeting minutes from 11-16-2023. Dr. Fares Mouchantaf seconded. Ms. Sally Rich abstained due to not being present at this meeting.

1/11/24 Minutes – Ms. Sally Rich moved that the Board of Health accept the minutes of 1/11/2024 as written. Dr. David Driscoll seconded. Dr. Fares Mouchantaf abstained due to not being present at this meeting.

- **Bills Payable**

#730 - Ms. Sally Rich made a motion to approve Bills Payable #730 retroactively for \$776.10. Dr. Fares Mouchantaf seconded. **Vote: All in Favor**

#731 – Ms. Sally Rich made a motion to approve Bills Payable #731 for \$17.58. Dr. Fares Mouchantaf seconded. **Vote: All in Favor**

- **Social Worker Updates**

Ms. Jesse Palm, Social Worker, is unable to attend the meeting but has provided an update report with fliers for upcoming events. Report and fliers are attached to these meeting minutes.

- **Septic System Plan Reviews**

None

- **Well Water Supply**

None

- **Permits**

None

- **Old Board of Health Business**

92 Southern Avenue – Updates and Discussion

18 John Wise Avenue – Updates and Discussion

17 Kings Court – Updates and Discussion

Ms. Sally Rich asked Dr. Mouchantaf why the Board of Health condemns properties where people are not supposed to be living in but they continue to live at the properties for months and years. Ms. Rich asked if there isn't a way to remove people from the properties and lock the property up until repair work can be completed. Ms. Rich stated that if a property is condemned, then it's not supposed to be habitable. Dr. Mouchantaf

answered that it may be more of a question for the police, whereas the Board of Health imposes the order but the police should be enforcing the order. Ms. Rich asked why the Board of Health is not following up to find out why the police aren't doing the enforcement. Ms. Rich stated that she would like Ms. Erin Kirchner to look into that. Ms. Rich stated that it seems silly that the Board of Health votes to issue condemnation orders but nothing gets done. Ms. Rich stated that it's been a couple of years now that 17 King's Court was issued a condemnation order. Ms. Rich stated that she would like to see the Allen property (5&9 Southern Avenue) added to the old business section of the agenda because that property is coming up on the court docket again. Ms. Rich stated that she doesn't understand why we don't get any updates on that property. Dr. Mouchantaf stated that the Allen property has not been on the Board of Health agenda since he has been on the Board. Ms. Rich stated again that the Allen Property, 5 & 9 Southern Avenue, will be coming up on the court docket again soon. Dr. Mouchantaf asked what the upcoming court date is for. Ms. Rich answered that she thinks it is for non-payment of back taxes. Dr. Mouchantaf asked, once the Board of Health issues a condemnation order, who imposes it. Ms. Rich answered that the Board of Health can ask Ms. Kirchner to clarify that question. Ms. Rich also asked why the Board of Health isn't having a meeting with the Selectmen, the Building Inspector, the Fire Department, the Electrical Inspector, etc., since they are all involved in these condemnation orders. Dr. David Driscoll stated that the tools and resources that we have to enforce the orders that are issued are extremely limited in a town as small as Essex. Ms. Rich stated that the police should be able to enforce and have people escorted out of these properties because they had notice of the condemnation and they're not supposed to be there. Ms. Rich stated that locks should be placed on these properties and only contractors who have been issued permits to do work on these properties should be allowed inside. Ms. Rich stated that her feeling is that the Board shouldn't even condemn properties if they can't enforce the orders. Dr. Driscoll stated that the Board still has to condemn the properties that need to be condemned and because the Board has limited resources, Dr. Driscoll doesn't feel it's the Board's job to be policing the police. Ms. Sally Rich agreed. Ms. Rich again stated that she doesn't understand why the Board of Health isn't meeting with the other departments so that everyone is on the same page as to what is going on with the properties. Ms. Rich stated that in her opinion there should be more of an urgent nature to resolve these issues. Dr. Driscoll agreed. Ms. Rich stated that she thought there would be an agenda item for this meeting for a report about J's Junk Removal because she had asked at our previous Board of Health meeting about whether or not J's Junk is picking up recycling because she doesn't think his service is picking it up. Dr. Driscoll asked how the Board could prove that. Ms. Rich stated that Ms. Kirchner was going to check into it and that's why she expected to see a report, because not only by the Board of Health Regulation but by State Law, J's Junk is supposed to be providing recycling with the trash removal and she doesn't believe he is.

- **Other Concerns, Issues & BOH Business**

Ms. Rich asked about 64 Choate Street included on the Administrator's Report stating that the Title 5 inspector noted the dwelling has a garbage grinder and the system was not designed to accommodate this flow. Ms. Sally Rich questioned why the property has a garbage grinder when the Board of Health has sent Title 5 approval letters to home owners telling them that the system was not designed to accommodate the use of a garbage grinder. Dr. Driscoll stated that the Board only says that a system has not been approved for use of a garbage grinder but that the Board can't enforce this.

Ms. Sally Rich stated that she doesn't understand what is happening with the property of 18 John Wise Ave. because the home owners were supposed to have their septic system pumped by the 18<sup>th</sup> of January and supply the pump slip to the Board of Health office but on January 19<sup>th</sup> they had not supplied the pump slip to the Board of Health office. Ms. Rich stated that Ms. Kirchner informed her that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) gives 30 days. Ms. Rich stated that we are now past the 30 days and they haven't supplied a pump slip, nor have the homeowners supplied contractor information for connection to municipal sewer which the homeowner said would be done in two to three weeks but there is nothing going on. Ms. Rich stated that Ms. Kirchner informed the Board that legal counsel has advised that the property owners can take advantage of the 2% Low Interest Loan to help with sewer connection and that Ms. Kirchner has advised the property owners that they can take advantage of this loan but the owners are currently in violation. Dr. Driscoll stated that his understanding is that the property owners are in progress of trying to become compliant. Ms. Rich stated that the home owners are saying that, but they aren't supplying any information to Ms. Kirchner. Dr. Driscoll stated that Ms. Kirchner isn't present to address where the homeowner's are with the project but that it is being addressed and it is in progress, we just don't have that information.

Dr. Driscoll asked if there were any other complaints or updates. Ms. Sally Rich stated that the property at 21 Main Street has been ongoing since 1/15 and there was supposed to be an extermination of rodents in that apartment but there is nothing definitive stating whether an extermination was done or not after over a month.

Leave Use Notification Form – Erin Kirchner – Dr. Driscoll entertained a motion to approve the Leave Use Notification Form for Erin Kirchner for 3 hours personal time 2/5/24 and 3 hours personal time on 2/6/24 and 65.5 hours of vacation time from 3/26/24 thru 4/5/24. Dr. Mouchantaf seconded. **Vote: All in Favor.**

- **Items that could not be reasonably anticipated by the Chairman within 48 hours of meeting**  
*None*

Dr. David Driscoll entertained a motion that the Board of Health close the meeting that is being recorded at 7:21 p.m. Ms. Sally Rich so moved. **Vote: all in Favor**

**Next BOH meeting: 3/14/2024**

Prepared by: Jeff Thomas Attested by: Sally Rich  
Jeff Thomas

Date Signed: 3/14/24

**Eastern Essex Regional Public Health Coalition  
Regional Social Worker BOH Update**

Town: Essex

Meeting Date: February 22, 2024

- RSW continues to offer Office Hours at Essex Town Hall (Wed 9-1) and Essex Senior Center (Mon 9:30-11:30). Town hall has 1-3 drop-ins or scheduled appointments weekly. Individual contact at senior center is larger, but less focused/clinical and focuses on connecting with residents who drop in for activities and grab & go lunches.
- Caregiver Support Group at Essex Senior Center for Spouses is hosting a guest speaker this month from SeniorCare (2/26/24 at 10:30am). They will be speaking on additional supports available for their loved ones and new program to assist caregivers not only for the person they are caring for, but also for themselves. (FLYER ATTACHED)
- Continue to provide opportunities for Regional School District.
  - RSW participating in MERSD Wellness Committee, first meeting scheduled for 2/29
  - Working to bring youth leadership coalition to MERDS (RYPN)
  - Collaborating with COA to offer intergenerational with EES students (Open door bowl painting fundraiser)
  - Ipswich Aware is offering programming on choices around substance and alcohol and parents responsibility. Sullivan's Message in on 2/27 at Ipswich high school. (FLYER ATTACHED)
- Opioid Response training scheduled with assistance of EPD and ONESTOP for 4/26 at COA. Education and Narcan available. (FLYER ATTACHED)
- Consumer Protection Presentation at ECOA 3/7 @ 11am. Presentation in collaboration with EPD around common scams and how to avoid them. (FLYER ATTACHED)
- EERPHC has a shared service coordinator that will be starting the week of 3/4.
- EERPHC is continuing to seek Regional Public Health Nurse.
- RSW continuing to collaborate with local non-profits to be able to best provide services necessary public health needs, mental and substance wellness, and additional supports. Current collaborations include: Essex County Outreach Co-Response Police Program, The Open Door, Acord, Bootstraps, Regional Youth Prevention Network, Early Childhood Partners (CFCE), Action Inc., Mass Library System's Library Social Work Network, Ipswich YMCA and local COA's. **PLEASE SHARE IF YOU ARE AWARE OF ANY ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS THAT MAY BE HELPFUL FOR RSW TO CONNECT WITH.**



# CAREGIVER SUPPORT

For those caring for a loved one with  
a chronic medical condition or dementia

**In February we Welcome Michelle  
Cain, of SeniorCare, to share her  
expertise and answer questions  
related to Caregiver Support and  
Age & Dementia Friendly Cape Ann.**

**Open to any caregivers on  
the North Shore.**



**MONDAY, 2/26 10:30AM  
ESSEX SENIOR CENTER  
PICKERING ST, ESSEX**

**QUESTIONS? Eastern Essex  
Contact Jessie Palm Regional Public  
JPalm@HamiltonMA.gov Health Coalition  
(978)983-1771 Rockport Essex Hamilton Wenham**





## LEARN HOW TO IDENTIFY AND AVOID SCAMS

**MARCH 3-10 IS NATIONAL CONSUMER  
PROTECTION WEEK**

**JOIN THE ESSEX POLICE AND OUR REGIONAL  
SOCIAL WORKER FOR A PRESENTATION TO  
LEARN MORE ABOUT FRAUD AND HOW YOU  
CAN PROTECT YOURSELF**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 7TH  
11:30AM  
ESSEX SENIOR CENTER**



**Eastern Essex  
Regional Public  
Health Coalition**  
Rockport Essex Hamilton Wenham



# OVERDOSE PREVENTION & RESPONSE TRAINING



**All are welcome to learn about Harm Reduction as well as**

- **How to recognize an overdose**
- **How to respond to an overdose**
- **Steps we can take to prevent an overdose**

**Thursday, 4/26, 11am  
Essex Senior Center**

**Harm Reduction literature, Fentanyl, Xylazine & Benzodiazepine  
test strips and Narcan are available for participants to take**



**Eastern Essex  
Regional Public  
Health Coalition**

Rockport Essex Hamilton Wenham





**Featuring: KATHI AND CHRIS SULLIVAN**

**Tuesday, February 27th, 2024**

**6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

**Dolan Performing Arts Center**

**Free event • Registration requested**

<https://buytickets.at/ipswichaware/1157865>



#### KEY TAKEAWAYS

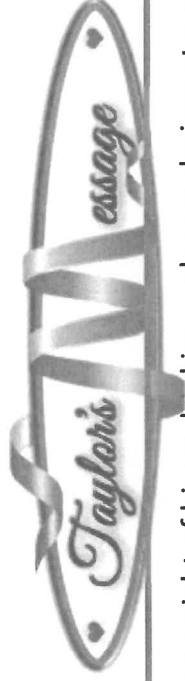
- Alcohol awareness
- Underage and binge drinking
- Choices and consequences
- How to protect the ones you love
- Parenting and social host liability
- Finding your purpose and discovering your voice



**Sponsored by Ipswich Aware and the Ipswich Schools**



**IPSWICH AWARE**  
Support Lives Here



**A**fter a night of binge drinking and poor choices at a series of underage drinking parties, Kathi Sullivan's 17-year old daughter Taylor found herself alone in the woods. She drowned in only two feet of water. They found her 3 days later. Kathi became an alcohol awareness speaker and made her mission in life to spread **Taylor's Message**. Her presentation is heart wrenching but ends with an inspirational message of hope, love and a new found power for students to deal with peer pressure and tough choices they face every day. Her honesty, openness, and heartfelt message is packed with powerful takeaways, not just surrounding alcohol.

## NOT IN THE PLAYBOOK

**C**hris, a North Attleboro native, had a stellar high school athletic career and eventually was drafted by the New England Patriots. What should have been a life on top of the world turned into a battle with his inner demons. Today, Chris shares his unforgettable story about the dangers of alcohol and drugs with young people across the country. They walk away with new skills to help them cope and make good choices about drugs and alcohol. Through his presentation, "**Not in the Playbook**," young people learn that reaching out and asking for help is a sign of strength, not weakness.