

**Halifax Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 8, 2021**

On Monday, a meeting of the Halifax Board of Health was held at the Halifax Town hall.

Present at the meeting were:

John L. Weber, Chairman
Alan J. Dias, Co-Chairman
Steven A. MacFaun, Clerk
Robert Valery, Health Agent

The Board of Health opened at 6:30pm.

Joanne Andrews, Gordon Andrews, Phylis Silenzi, Ashley DiSesa, Pamela Engstrom, David Mascio and Amy Troup were also present at the meeting.

1. Discussion Items:

- a. Public Records Request and Standard Operating Procedure for non-Board of Health staff members due to a recent impromptu and irregular visit to the office on March 01, 2021.

Alan Dias Stated, “For the record, all Board Members are present.”

John Weber stated also, “All Board Members are present, Health Agent. “This is to discuss a Public Records Request and Standard Operating Procedure for non-Board of Health staff members due to a recent impromptu and irregular visit to the office on March 01, 2021.”

“We are going to enact an SOP for the purpose of requesting documents. So, I will read this into the record. [This meeting is about the Board of Health] demonstratively exercising control over the office under a written policy. The policy will be enforced even handedly for staff members and the General Public. The appointed Record Access Officer for The Board of Health is Health Agent Robert Valery.”

“Standard Operating Procedures for Public Record request for non-Board of Health staff members in the Board of Health.

- Information request can be verbal or written.
 - If the request is a verbal request, a BOH staff member will write the request on the BOH Public Request Form.
- If the BOH staff is unavailable to immediately fulfill a records request, an appointment will be made for a future time and/or date.

- Requestor will be taken to Meeting Room 1 or another similar location to review records.
- A BOH staff member will remain in the room at all times to assist with anything the requestor may need.
- Once requestor is finished with their review, a BOH staff member will return files to the Board of Health office and lock and secure the meeting room location.

The Board of Health will follow the Massachusetts General Law (Chapter 66, Section 10) Public records Law and its Regulations.”

John Weber: “[After/Is] that?”

Bob Valery: “These are the Standard Operation Procedures that I find quite acceptable.”

John Weber “OK, Alan?”

Alan Dias “I don’t have any comments.”

John Weber: “Steven?”

Steven: I have none.

John Weber: “Ok make the motion”

Amy Troup: “I do, I was requested to be at this meeting. I was notified to be at this meeting. I think this is a direct, like a regular visit to the Board of Health office which I do on a regular basis for the past 17 years and I’ve never once had an issue and I was actually very shocked by your letter I got at my mailbox at 5:30 because their version wasn’t mine. The only reason I sat at your desk was because it was easier to look at the file. To be absolutely clear, you didn’t state when I was there, that you had any problem and you talked to me about the property in the file and you talked to me about both properties.

It is really a hinderance when a realtor comes in to grab all of the correct forms for a public property you might need that information right away. These are public records, and they are here to help and guide the public. So when I am going to show a property I need to understand what I am selling, so I can educate properly with my comments, which is what I did. Yes, did we talk about another property yes but I am a resident of this town and as a taxpayer and even if I wasn’t a resident of this town. I go into other towns and I’ve never, never not one time have I felt asking for a product and looking at it would put all of these rules and regulations in place, to prevent people that are buying homes or other things that are happening that would receive, like for instance mortgages which an appraiser is going to come and they’re gonna look for certain things, they can’t wait ten days to look at things, it’s going to hinder your [inaudible word].

Even for here, there's American Rights for a reason. They're to protect us, they're there to educate people. So, when I went into The Board of Health for the past 17 years, because that's how long I've been in real estate, and I probably, I think that I could actually have witnesses here that can actually attest to the fact that this is what I do for my client. I go in, and I make sure things are in the right order, in order to show something to them that they're going to have to be bound to for years. It's a very serious impression. It's to protect people, it's to educate people, it's not really something that you should regulate to make it that people have to wait and all those other things. I would've liked that if you were upset with me, because I flat out have witnesses, Dave, that I went home and told him about it and what a nice guy and how polite and wonderful he was so it's really kind of funny that I got a letter that states the complete opposite. And it's very hurtful because as I told you that day, everybody speaks so highly of you, from other towns Marshfield and Kingston. So, this is the opposite of what happened and I really feel really sad about that because that's really it's um, it's a strike on my character which I know I didn't do this so I just can stand proud and I know that anybody that knows me would know that I didn't do this. I looked at files and investigated. You didn't have any problems with me that day not one. If you did, when I went home, he would've heard a different story. Dave? And you don't have to say anything."

David Mascio: [inaudible] We talked about this earlier. [inaudible] No issues, you were smiling, talking and having a good time so after I read the letter, I apologize, but it's exactly the opposite of what she told me happened. Did she actually... was she abrasive and abusive to you or she used argumentative terminology to you? If you have to read the letter I mean, you were there.

Bob Valery: We're here for a Public Records Request and Standard Operating Procedure for non-Board of Health staff members due to a recent impromptu and irregular visit. At no point in time did I say anybody's name or happen to say anybody's name.

David Mascio: "My staff and I found your conduct to be abrasive and demanding and uncalled for."

Bob Valery: I think that-

David Mascio: For a particular public record you had a request. So you're saying that her conduct was -

John Weber "I'm sorry, ok, that's enough of that."

Amy Troup "Alan, do you want me to shut up again? Is that what you [inaudible]."

John Weber "No, I do. That's enough, you stated your case. [inaudible talking] Ok Alright thank you. Anything else?"

Alan Dias “John, I will make a motion to adopt the standard operating procedures public record requests for Non-Board of health staff members as written on the March 1st at the Board of Health.

John Weber Second

All in favor?

I.

A motion was made adopt the new Public Records Request and Standard Operating Procedure for non-Board of Health staff members.

Motion: Alan Dias

Second: John Weber

Unanimous vote on the motion

[inaudible talking]

Alan Dias “6:38 to adjourn?”

David Mascio: This meeting’s over?

John Weber: Yes it is.

David Mascio: Did you say, tell her to shutup?

John Weber “No?”

John Weber “No, she said, she asked. That was her idea, no-one told her to shut up. I said we are finished here.”

Amy Troup “Alan”

John Weber: I don’t care what you heard.

John Weber: Steven, second for adjournment

Steven MacFaun: Excuse me?

John Weber: Second to adjourn. Alright, all in favor?

Steven: I

Alan: I

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:45pm.

Motion: John Weber

Second: Steven MacFaun

Unanimous vote on the motion

From audience: “Did you say I say you to shut up? You did say it.”

[end tape]

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:45pm.

Motion: John Weber

Second: Steven MacFaun

Unanimous vote on the motion

Typed by,
Kelly Dwyer, Secretary

Signed By:
John L. Weber, Chairman
Alan J. Dias, Co-Chairman
Steven A. MacFaun – Clerk

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