

Minutes
Board of Selectmen Meeting
October 5, 2017

7:15 p.m. A joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Health was held at the Public Services Administration Building. Members of the Board of Selectmen present were Ms. Marianne Cooley, Mr. Daniel Matthews, Mr. John Bulian, Mr. Moe Handel, Mr. Matthew Borrelli, and Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick. Members of the Board of Health present were Dr. Jane Fogg, Dr. Stephen Epstein and Dr. Ed Cosgrove, along with Director of Health & Human Services Tim McDonald.

Joint Meeting - Ms. Cooley told the members of the Board of Health that the Selectmen are thankful for all of the work the Board has done in support of the Selectmen's work on projects such as Eversource and Verizon. She said that the Selectmen understand that the work has been time-consuming and has caused the Director of Health & Human Services to re-prioritize other important initiatives.

The two boards discussed a variety of topics of joint interest including medical marijuana, recreational marijuana and the need for a Town By-law to restrict sales, the impact of marijuana uses on the new Mixed Use 128 zoning district, accessory dwelling units, the diversion of the Director's focus to other human services departments at the expense of public health priorities, the potential need for additional staffing, and the lack of coordinated on-line permitting and other IT concerns.

Dr. Cosgrove noted that the Board of Health supports the idea of a consolidated Health & Human Services Department, but that many of the Board's priorities are not being met. He said that additional staffing for the Health Division may be needed. Mr. Matthews agreed that there have been issues, noting that staffing vacancies in several divisions are contributing factors. He said that the Department should be in a better spot soon. Dr. Fogg said that investments in technology will also alleviate some of the backlog of work. Mr. Matthews reiterated that the two boards should have an open line of communication and that we all have a common purpose.

7:50 p.m. **Motion: Mr. Matthews moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Bulian seconded the motion. Unanimous: 5-0.**