

**WHEELING BOARD OF HEALTH
SPECIAL MEETING**

September 27, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:59 p.m. by Vice Chairperson Shannon.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Birnbaum, Hembd, Premo, Shannon, Simon. Commissioner Ebeling was absent with prior notice.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 26, 2016

Commissioner Birnbaum moved, seconded by Commissioner Hembd to approve the minutes dated July 26, 2016, as presented. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

IV. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Health Officer Slaby requested moving Verbal Communication to the next item on the agenda.

Commissioner Birnbaum moved, seconded by Commissioner Simon to move Verbal Communication to the next item on the agenda. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

V. VERBAL COMMUNICATION

Health Officer Slaby introduced guest speaker, Village resident, Trinity Bednarz. Ms. Bednarz spoke to the Village Board last Monday and Village President Argiris asked Health Officer to invite Ms. Bednarz to tonight's meeting.

Ms. Bednarz introduced herself and explained she was present to speak about the use of Roundup, a herbicide used throughout the Village of Wheeling. She spoke at last Monday's Village Board Meeting about how she witnessed unprotected workers in the Village spraying chemicals along public sidewalks and street. She saw it at the corner of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue and along the sidewalks and streets next to the forest preserve. She e-mailed a local official to ask about the chemical and was told it was Monsanto's Roundup. She spoke about some personal stories about loved ones getting sick and the rising of children's diseases (Autism, ADD, ADHD, etc.). She mentioned her career as a photographer had given her many opportunities to meet other passionate individuals trying to change the world for the better. She wanted to share with the Board of Health on why she would like Monsanto's Roundup to be band in public areas. If not Wheeling, as a community all together.

Ms. Bednarz reported that Monsanto's Roundup was the most widely used chemical. Roundup's main chemical component is Glyphosate. According to the Center for Food and Safety in 2014 and 2015, the World Health Organization determined that Glyphosate was a carcinogen. According to a study done on Glyphosate in 2015 by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the working group concluded there was sufficient evidence of Glyphosate acting as a carcinogen in experimental animals. She reported that Glyphosate also caused DNA and chromosomal damage in human cells. One study in community residents reported increases in blood markers of chromosomal damage after Glyphosate formulations were sprayed nearby.

Ms. Bednarz reported that Monsanto was also responsible for other controversial products such as the insecticide DDT, PCBs and the bovine growth hormone. Aside from Roundup, Monsanto's other great

contribution was the war chemical Agent Orange used in the Vietnam War. Agent Orange was sprayed all over the trees making the leaves fall off to reveal the enemies. According to the US Department of Veteran Affairs, the VA has recognized certain cancers and other health problems as presumptive diseases associated with the exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides during military service. She reported that veterans and their survivors may be eligible for benefits for these diseases. The diseases listed to be associated with Agent Orange or other herbicides to be covered with benefits by the VA are Chronic B cell leukemia's, Hodgkin's, Non-Hodgkin's, multiple melanoma, Parkinson, respiratory cancers, etc. Ms. Bednarz reported that Glyphosate and Roundup were being linked to numerous cancers and reproductive problems and anxiety disorders with children at the highest risk. The overuse of this chemical has proven so bad that it is now being found in our blood, urine and breast milk. You can ask to be tested by your doctor or an online test. She noted with more evidence, Roundup and Glyphosate were being proven to be far more dangerous to dogs outside, kids playing in parks and rolling in grass. She mentioned that even when wearing shoes the deadly chemicals were being tracked into homes and could remain on services for up to one year if not exposed to sunlight.

Ms. Bednarz reported that changes were happening all over the world. France has banded the herbicide nationally. German retail giant, REWE acted to remove all Glyphosate products from over 350 of their stores. Swiss company, Coop and Migros decided to remove Glyphosate products from being sold due to health risks. The Swiss markets also announced they were also exploring other non-toxic alternatives for weed control. Boulder, Colorado banned Glyphosate in 2011. Connecticut has a law prohibiting the use of pesticides on school grounds. In Montgomery, Maryland, MD members asked the hospital to stop the use of landscape pesticides including Glyphosate. In Laguna Hills, CA a local mom started a successful campaign to eliminate the use of Roundup in her community. Ms. Bednarz has convinced her HOA to switch to organic landscaping techniques and was granted a two year no chemical test zone comprised of four neighboring properties.

Ms. Bednarz explained her goal today was to educate her neighbors on the dangers of this product and the use of toxic lawn chemicals. She hopes Wheeling can eliminate the product in public areas due to the rising number of health risks.

Commissioner Birnbaum questioned if her homeowner's association had stopped using Roundup. Ms. Bednarz explained they had never used Roundup but she convinced them to stop using all fertilizers and other weed killers. Commissioner Birnbaum questioned if they were using an alternative. Ms. Bednarz stated they were currently not using anything.

Commissioner Birnbaum mentioned there had been a lot of articles about Monsanto and the dangers of the chemicals.

Commissioner Birnbaum asked what was done at the Village Board meeting. Ms. Bednarz explained Village President Argiris asked her to contact him after the meeting and she was then put in contact with Health Officer Slaby. Commissioner Birnbaum explained the Board of Health was in charge of looking out for the health and wellbeing of the Village. Commissioner Simon applauded Ms. Bednarz.

Commissioner Hembd asked if she had literature to share. Ms. Bednarz offered to send the Board of Health a list of her sources and speech. She also put together other ways to control weeds.

Commissioner Birnbaum thinks people want to see beautiful grass without weeds but thinks health is much more important. She asked about the next steps. Health Officer Slaby suggested sending a letter to Village President Argiris with a copy to Mark Janeck, Public Works Director in order to get the information out to educate. Commissioner Birnbaum suggested asking for other alternatives in the

letter. Ms. Bednarz referred to the list of alternatives which include vinegar for weeds or salt for cement, sidewalks or driveways.

Health Officer Slaby felt it was an uphill battle because people want a weed-free lawn.

Ms. Bednarz provided her e-mail address to the Board of Health trinitybednarz1@live.com.

Health Officer Slaby asked Ms. Bednarz to stay for the remainder of the meeting.

Health Officer Slaby announced the resignation of Skip Bieber. He announced his resignation on September 20. He served on the Board of Health since 2004 and was the current chairperson.

Health Officer Slaby announced Commissioner Shannon as the acting Chairperson and noted there was one vacant position. She gave Ms. Bednarz an application to apply if she was interested.

VI. ON GOING PROGRAMS

a) Blood Drives – November 9th

Vice Chairperson Shannon announced November 9th as the next blood drive date.

Health Officer Slaby asked for volunteers since Skip would no longer be volunteering and Commissioner Ebeling is in rehab. Commissioner Hembd thought she might be able to help out during the day.

b) Prescription Medication Collection

Health Officer Slaby reported she attended the last collection along with Commissioner Shannon. It was busy throughout the collection. Three bins of sharps were collected with two bins of medications.

Health Officer Slaby noticed the residents were so appreciative of the service. They also collected a lot of batteries and eyeglasses.

Commissioners Birnbaum and Hembd are scheduled to work on October 15th. Commissioner Shannon is scheduled on November 19th but a second person is needed along with two people in December. Commissioner Simon offered to work on November 19th. Commissioner Hembd offered to work on December 17th.

Health Officer Slaby reminded the Commission the collection would be canceled in bad weather.

c) Wheeling Walks program

Commissioner Birnbaum announced the program was doing well and more people were participating. She explained it was very social and motivated the participants.

Commissioner Birnbaum explained the program would continue through the entire year since the Park District clears the paths when there is snow. The alternative is to use the indoor track at the Park District.

Commissioner Birnbaum suggested contacting the neighborhoods to get more people involved. Health Officer Slaby offered to advertise it in the Village Views in the spring. Commissioner Birnbaum mentioned the program was also listed in the Park District's fall and winter brochure without an ending date. She suggested including a competition between the neighborhoods.

Commissioner Birnbaum felt the Park District was pleased with the program because it made people aware of the park. Several people have also joined the Fitness Center.

Commissioner Birnbaum is still enthusiastic about the program.

VII. OLD BUSINESS - None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Health Officer Slaby asked for a nomination for Chairperson.

Commissioner Birnbaum moved, seconded by Commissioner Hembd to nominate Commissioner Shannon as Chairperson. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

Health Officer Slaby asked for a nomination for Vice Chairperson. Commissioner Birnbaum volunteered.

Commissioner Shannon moved, seconded by Commissioner Hembd to nominate Commissioner Birnbaum as Vice Chairperson. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was entered at 7:38 p.m. by Commissioner Hembd. Commissioner Shannon seconded the motion. The motion received unanimous approval by the Board of Health.

Respectfully submitted,

Danene Shannon, Chairperson
Wheeling Board of Health

Approved: Ellen Simon, Secretary

Date: November 15, 2016