Worcester Telegram

Monday, May 10, 2004   
  
**Board wets feet, changes locks**  
  
Templeton officials tackle landfill

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| **Shirley Barnes CORRESPONDENT** |

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**TEMPLETON-** The all-new Board of Health edged closer, with an assist from the former Health Board chairman, to an understanding of the variety of responsibilities it faces.   
  
In one of its first decisions, the board, which met last week, decided to change locks connected with the town landfill operation and monitoring wells. The number of people with access to the site and monitoring wells will be restricted, and many agencies must get the keys from the board chairman.   
  
The board, which was the subject of a recall in last week's annual town election, also voted to open the landfill recycling area from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday. The yard waste and composting section will be free, but residents will have to pay for leaving certain materials such as white goods. A list of accepted materials and costs is available by calling the Board of Health office at (978) 939-2377.   
  
Former Health Board Chairman Randy Lawrence offered the board advice on what questions should be asked and what issues addressed during a Health Board site assignment. He said the focus should be on issues such as pollution, air quality and noise problems rather than on Planning Board issues such as setbacks and boundaries.   
  
When Mr. Lawrence started questioning why a member of the board had not previously obtained a site assignment for work he is doing and referred to a project that Health Board member Wayne Fontaine is doing in Hubbardston, just beyond the Templeton line, he was ruled out of order and threatened with a call to the police to evict him.   
  
When members and residents discussed a proposed fee for waste trucks coming into the town to pick up or deliver or to pass through the town, Mr. Lawrence asked how charging a fee would make the town and roads safer.   
  
The board considered two site assignments and postponed a decision on both until after a May 20 meeting to allow applicants for the storage units on South Road and for an auto repair garage on Patriots Road time to bring in more complete information.   
  
The board is looking for ways to better serve the town, according to Mr. Fontaine, and will consider such things as a stump dump area near the old closed landfill and getting rid of an old building on the site that is caving in.   
  
The board tabled a motion by Mr. Fontaine to limit any information to residents or the press about activities of the Health Board or contact between the board and the state Department of Environmental Protection or the federal Environmental Protection Agency.   
  
The gag rule was tabled after a discussion about how it would affect ongoing work that Health Director Richard Stevens was involved in with the DEP and EPA concerning the cleanup at Temple Stuart and other industrial sites in town. The rule would also affect responses to questions from residents concerning regular health matters.   
  
The reorganized Health Board includes Richard Trifilo, chairman; Mr. Fontaine, vice chairman; and Donald Tourigny, the clerk. Another public meeting was to be held at 7 tonight at the School Street office, if the board was able to post the meeting in time.