

BOOTHBAY HARBOR
SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
Fluoride Referendum Public Hearing
October 11, 2022

In addition to these typed minutes, video recordings of all Selectmen's meetings are available to be viewed at BRCTV and audio recordings are available at the Boothbay Harbor Town Office.

ATTENDING: Michael Tomko - Chair
Tricia Warren – Vice Chair
Alyssa Allen
Denise Griffin
Kenneth Rayle

Julia Latter, Town Manager

Chairman Tomko called the Public Hearing to order at 5:30 p.m.

Introductions of the Board of Selectmen.

Dr. Steven Mills, Pediatric Dentist, gave a presentation regarding the importance of water fluoridation stating dental decay is currently a problem that affects those who can least access the care, community water fluoridation has worked and he believes it is cost-effective.

Wendy Wolf, Boothbay Harbor resident, spoke in favor of the continuation of water fluoridation, she feels it is an important tool in children's dental disease.

Selectperson Griffin thanked Dr. Mills for his presentation and mentioned that she was told fluoridation in the water is also useful for adults, especially seniors.

Dr. Mills responded by saying it is greater for children but good for everyone.

Harvey Oest, Boothbay Harbor resident, asked as you age will you lose enamel on your teeth? Has the water district done any studies regarding this issue and what is their opinion on continuing with water fluoridation?

Merritt Blakeslee, representative for the Boothbay Region Water District, mentioned that the district has firmly taken a neutral opinion. They will be governed by what the voters decide.

Stephanie Hale, Boothbay Harbor resident, had a couple of points and questions. She mentioned that some residents have well water vs. town water, asked if older people ingest into their stomach and bloodstream to strengthen teeth and what does it do to bones? Will it make bones brittle? Infants, who use formula and town water, can they get overdosed on fluoride?

Selectperson Rayle spoke in favor of the continuation of water fluoridation: no federal agencies having an impact on our health disagree with fluoride i.e. CDC, the FDA ruled in April this year that bottled water may

include fluoride, fluoridation is mandated in 15 states and 2 territories, and a Delta Dental survey mentions 79% of parents agree it is important to be in the water.

Anna Christina Rogers, Boothbay Harbor resident, spoke against water fluoridation: Sodium Fluoride is a by-product, water isn't currently fluoridated due to a supply shortage, costs have risen, it doesn't give people a choice if they do not want to ingest it, the Water District does monitor how much goes into the water, but some people ingest more than others and tooth decay isn't a lack of fluoride it is a lack of oral hygiene and poor nutrition.

Judith Kildow, Boothbay Harbor resident, mentioned that the Chairman of the National Academy of Science regarding toxicology shared with her that he didn't believe fluoridation was toxic and that not a single study shows neurological damage with the low dose.

Dr. Jay Andrews, a dentist in Boothbay Harbor thanked Dr. Mills for his presentation. Andrews spoke in favor of the continuation of water fluoridation: He was involved in putting the fluoride in the water originally, loss of enamel is due to age, not fluoride, he feels this is also a benefit for older patients, a low-cost option, not toxic in low doses, some countries put fluoride in milk, and he sees the difference in his patients that have access to water including fluoride.

Vice-Chair Warren asked if there is any research regarding fluoride being paired with other chemicals. Dr. Mills responded studies have been done, and nothing has shown to be harmful.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.