

Safe Drinking Water Protection By-law

Special Town Meeting

Monday September 26, 2016

Safe Drinking Water Protection By-law

"No town board, officer, or committee shall require the addition of any substance to the public drinking water supply **for preventive health care purposes unrelated to contamination of drinking water.**"

- Treat the Water, Not the People
- Treating the water keeps it clean and safe to drink
- The only substance added to treat people is Fluoride which is solely being added to treat the people for the prevention of cavities.
- If passed, the by-law will only stop the addition of fluoride to our drinking water and not affect the Water Departments ability now or in the future to treat the water.

Fluoridation - Violates Informed Consent

ADA Statement on Dental Patient Rights and Responsibilities

“It was envisioned that the patient rights document would also serve to remind patients and dentists of the **importance of informed consent** by involving patients in treatment decisions in a meaningful way.”

“9. You have a right to accept, defer or **decline** any part of your treatment recommendations.”

AMA Code of Medical Ethics

“The process of informed consent occurs when communication between a patient and physician results in the patient's authorization or agreement to undergo a specific medical intervention.”

United Nations Article 6 Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights

“In no case should a collective community agreement or the consent of a community leader or other authority substitute for an individual's informed consent.”

Who makes the decision?

- CDC - Ten Great Public Health Achievements in the 20th Century
- Recommended by the ADA, AAP, US PHS, and WHO
- EPA neither endorses nor opposes fluoridation
- FDA has never evaluated or approved fluoride for ingestion; therefore, neither its safety nor efficacy can be assured.
- EPA Headquarter's Union of Scientists opposes fluoridation
 - 1500 scientists, lawyers, engineers and other professional employees at EPA Headquarters here in Washington, D.C.
 - "...based on the scientific literature documenting the increasingly out-of-control exposures to fluoride, the lack of benefit to dental health from ingestion of fluoride, and the hazards to human health from such ingestion."
- All of these recommendations are considered by the individual, but in the end it is still the individual that makes the decision

Fluoridation – No Control of Dose/Dosage

MassDEP Office of Research and Standards - Bibliography of Selected Manganese Publications Related to Drinking Water Exposures and Infants and Children

Grandjean, P. and P. J. Landrigan (2014). "Neurobehavioural effects of developmental toxicity." *The Lancet Neurology*

“In 2006, we did a systematic review and identified five industrial chemicals as developmental neurotoxicants: **lead**, **methylmercury**, polychlorinated biphenyls, **arsenic**, and toluene.

Since 2006, epidemiological studies have documented six additional developmental neurotoxicants: **manganese**, **fluoride**, chlorpyrifos, dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane, tetrachloroethylene, and the polybrominated diphenyl ethers.”

Fluoridation – No Control over Who gets it

2006 National Research Council of the Academy of Sciences

- Kidney patients, diabetics, seniors and babies are ‘susceptible sub-populations’ that are especially vulnerable to harm from ingested fluorides.
- Substantial evidence that fluoride exposure can impact thyroid function in some individuals

American Thyroid Association – June 2015 Publication

- “These data suggest that people residing in regions with drinking-water fluoridation have a higher risk of developing hypothyroidism than those living in regions without drinking-water fluoridation. The authors feel that these results raise concerns about the safety of community drinking-water fluoridation.”

Cochrane Study - no reliable evidence fluoridation prevents cavities

Key results

- “Our review found that water fluoridation is effective at reducing levels of tooth decay among children.... These results are based predominantly on old studies and may not be applicable today.”
- “Within the ‘before and after’ studies we were looking for, we did not find any on the benefits of fluoridated water for adults.”
- “We found insufficient information about the effects of stopping water fluoridation.”
- “We found insufficient information to determine whether fluoridation reduces differences in tooth decay levels between children from poorer and more affluent backgrounds.”
- “Overall, the results of the studies reviewed suggest that, where the fluoride level in water is 0.7 ppm, there is a chance of around 12% of people having dental fluorosis that may cause concern about how their teeth look.”

By-Law – Saves money & reduces risk

- CDC – “\$1 invested in this preventive measure yields approximately \$38 savings in dental treatment costs”
- Severely flawed as it does not take into account the total cost of fluoridation on all medical treatment costs of adverse health affects and fixing dental fluorosis
- Savings - \$27,000 to purchase & install fluoridation equipment in the new plant, \$10K/yr for fluoride, \$10-30K/yr for associated pH treatment. First year savings up to \$67,000 and up to \$40,000 annually after that for a five year savings outlook of up to \$225,000
- Anyone that wants fluoride can simply get it from their doctor