



Board of Health Wrap-Up

-Mark L. Carleo, REHS

The Dept. of Health and Veterans' Services

2nd Edition
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On Thursday May 4th, the Board of Health met for their regularly scheduled meeting. If you have never attended a meeting of the Board of Health you are of course encouraged to attend. All meetings are open to the public. The purpose of these meetings is to review the business of the previous month taken on behalf of the Board by their staff, as well as to discuss and amend policy and sometimes to adopt new regulations for the protection of public health.

We typically meet on the first Thursday of the month, however this occasionally needs to change. So please do check [the calendar](#) on the town's site.

On to the business from May 4th...

First up was the quick administrative requirement of approving [the minutes of the April meeting](#). The Board unanimously voted to approve those minutes as written.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Next came the report on the activities of the Environmental Health programs such as permitting and investigations.

The Board received an update on the licensing and permitting activities conducted since the previous meeting in April. Since April 6th the following permits were issued:

Permit Type	Number Issued
Body Art Establishment	0
Body Art Practitioner	0
Food Establishment/Tobacco	1
Funeral Director	0
Motel/Trailer Park	0
Public/Semi-Public Pool	1
Rec Camp for Children	0
Stable Permit	0
Tanning Facility	0
Temporary Food/Tobacco	0
Transportation of Garbage/Septage	0
Install a Well	0

Carleo reminded the Board that no routine permitting is occurring this time of year. However, over the next two months, we will be inspecting and permitting numerous semi-public swimming pools and special purpose pools as well as the recreational camps for children which operate in Town.

Two Public Hearings were scheduled for this meeting date. The first hearing was for McKinnon’s Butcher Shop relative to the expansion of their food preparation operations and assurance that the equipment currently installed was suitable. Just prior to the hearing the only remaining issue was resolved between the Inspector and McKinnon’s so the hearing was cancelled.

A second hearing for the owners of 55 Clinton Avenue relative to an order to cease the operation of an illegal dumpsite was postponed until the June meeting as the owner of the site was out of state.

Carleo updated the Board on their activities under a \$20,000 grant from the US Food and Drug Administration and the Association of Food and Drug Officials. The purpose of the grant is to advance conformance with the [FDA Voluntary Retail Food Program Standards](#); essentially, a program of excellence with measurable outcomes and continual improvement. On May 17th Carleo will be attending a Program Standards Sharing Session in Acton. At this meeting, information, materials, resources and support is there to assist all communities working under this voluntary program. Carleo will be there to share information on Standard 2 – Trained Regulatory Staff as well as to pick up some templates for uniform foodborne illness investigations and enforcement policy.

The Board was then provided an overview of the complaints received for the month by type and quantity:

Complaint Type	Submitted
Air Quality	0
Bathing	0
HazMat	0
Housing	1
Institutional Sanitation	2
Pest Control	3
Food Safety	0
Solid Waste	3
Wastewater	0
Water Quality	0

A full report on all Public Health Services was provided. For details on these activities such as infectious disease cases investigated and a full report on influenza activity for the season be sure to look for that report in the Public Health Nurse’s newsletter to be published soon.

Teaser: Influenza activity this year has been very unusual...

Finally, Carleo provided a brief update from the Animal Care Program. Jean Marcotti our Animal Care Specialist submitted a report stating that Strays in Need currently has no animals in its care. Additionally, quarantines for possible rabies exposures are at typical levels for this time of year. Calls regarding wildlife are on the rise, which is again, typical of this time of year.

With that, the Board voted to adjourn their meeting. The Board will meet again on June 1st.

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