

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES – April 6, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Thomas McLaughlin, MD at the Town Managers Meeting Room at 7:00 P.M. Also in attendance were; Member, Edmund Kowalski; Member, Martha Swindell; and, Mark L. Carleo, Public Health Inspector

PUBLIC HEARING: TUSCAN HILLS

Carleo introduced Guisepppe, the manager of Tuscan Hills to the Board of Health and informed them of the ongoing wastewater issues which have been occurring over the last few months. Within the last week, these issues came to a head and Carleo was left with no other choice but to suspend the Permit to Operate for Tuscan Hills. Guisepppe was present; not to contest this suspension, but just to be sure the Board understood that this issue was out of his ability to repair. Carleo further explained to the Board that the drains for the sanitary and kitchen waste in the building at 120 Water Street had disintegrated in some areas. Connections of lengths of pipe had come undone. Nobody could determine the cause of this, but the repair is estimated at about fifty thousand dollars and would take approximately three months. This situation was unfortunate but there was no other remedy. The Board expressed their condolences and encouraged Guisepppe to apply for a Permit at another location in Danvers should one be available.

ADMINISTRATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of March 2, 2017.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

LICENSING & PERMITS

Carleo informed the Board since the March meeting, 1 Body Art Establishment, 3 Body Art Practitioners, 1 Food Establishment, 1 Pool, and 1 Temporary Food Permit were issued.

NUISANCE REPORTS

Carleo reported that since the March meeting, 16 complaints had been filed with the Office of the Board of Health, 14 of which were resolved. 2 open orders remain.

313 MAPLE STREET

Carleo updated the Board on the action taken at 313 Maple Street. Since the last meeting, a realtor and the homeowner have come to an agreement to transfer the property. The realtor plans to demolish the dilapidated structure.

FOOD PROGRAM STANDARDS

Carleo reported that a Program Standards sharing session is scheduled for May 17 in Acton. He will be in attendance.

RODENT CONTROL REGULATION

Carleo introduced the Board to the idea of a regulation requiring pest control by any company seeking a street opening permit. The purpose, would be to reduce the scattering of rodent populations when trenches are dug in the environment. Other communities such as Brookline have a similar regulation on the books. Carleo reminded the Board of our current regulation which requires pest control prior to demolishing a structure. Dr. McLaughlin immediately cautioned against such a regulation as the evidence to support such activity is minimal at best. Kowalski asked if we could provide affected homeowners with a brochure containing information on rodent control. Carleo replied that we already provide information to homeowners, but based on the calls they are not looking for information. After a brief discussion, it seemed the only solution at this time was to be stricter with homeowners in the area of complaints. Any potential harborage, food or water should be cited and ordered removed no matter how minor.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Carleo received an update from Judith Ryan, Public Health Nurse earlier in the day and provided the following nursing report:

DANVERS CARES

DanversCares is hosting a substance abuse awareness walk on May 17. Further details will be available at the May meeting.

SOCIAL SENIORS PROGRAM

This program now has a waiting list for people wishing to join. The seniors have started visiting the Riverside pre-school program twice per month as part of an intergenerational program.

OTHER NEWS

Judith currently has 3 college interns and 2 high school students considering nursing or human services as a career working with her at the Senior Center. Additionally, the high school is hosting a “career day” April 13th. The Department will have its own table at this event. Finally, a diaper drive is on for child abuse prevention month from April 4 through the 30th.

DISEASE INVESTIGATIONS

Carleo reported that MAVEN shows 31 cases of influenza reported over the last month. One private elementary school on March 27th had 67 children out of school with influenza like illness. Another ten were out on April 5th. Dr. McLaughlin remarked that children are often not tested for influenza so the actual numbers are much higher than the 31 reported cases. Additionally, he stated that these illnesses are much later in the season than is typical. Usually by this time of year, influenza cases are waning rapidly. In addition to the influenza reported, there was one reported Group A strep and one Hepatitis C.

RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA

Carleo reported that the Town has asked the Planning Division to explore a moratorium on retail sales. This project is in its infancy and no further details were available at this time. However, this does signal that the Town is likely planning regulation through zoning. Dr. McLaughlin questions whether local prohibition can withstand a lawsuit to remove it.

ANIMAL CARE

STRAYS IN NEED

On behalf of Jean Marcotti, Carleo informed the Board that since the last meeting she has quarantined 3 dogs. Strays in Need is not currently holding any animals for adoption.

ANIMAL COMPLAINTS

Carleo informed the Board that since the last meeting Marcotti investigated four animal health complaints due to dog bites.

NEW BUSINESS

BROWN'S POND

Kowalski inquired about the status of Brown's pond and the reported level of Arsenic in the water. This property is owned by the Town of Danvers. A general discussion of the history ensued. Carleo agreed to conduct research and bring a more detailed report to the next BOH meeting.

With no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:50PM.

Respectfully submitted for your approval,

Mark Carleo
Interim Clerk for the Board of Health