

## **BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES – August 3, 2017**

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

### **ADMINISTRATION**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of June 1, 2017.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

#### **FOOD PROGRAM STANDARDS**

Carleo provided the Board a cursory glance at the policies he has drafted for Standard 3. The purpose of this standard is to provide for a HACCP based inspection program. He further provided the Board a brief history of HACCP and how it is used to prevent foodborne illness.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING ON A REQUEST FOR A VARIANCE, BENCHMARK PUTNAM FARM**

David Caron, the Person-In-Charge of the subject assisted living facility was present to request a variance to allow for outdoor grilling during the warmer months of the year. Carleo explained to the Board that in his professional opinion, this variance should not be granted. It sets a terrible precedent which invalidates an entire chapter of the Food Code, along with numerous sections of several other chapters. Additionally, this establishment serves a highly susceptible population and when foodborne illness strikes, the extent and severity of the outbreak can be much worse than the general population.

The Board offered Caron an opportunity to be heard. He informed the Board that he has had a discussion with Carleo about the risks involved and worked to put a plan in place which provides appropriate barriers to foodborne illness. Those barriers were described in his request for a variance.

After a brief discussion Carleo tempered his original recommendation to allow for the variance on a provisional basis of one month. During that month, Carleo will conduct inspections of the operation and if at any point there are risk factors which are uncontrolled and can't be corrected rapidly the operation will cease.

The Board unanimously voted to approve a provisional variance for one month during which time Carleo will evaluate the operation. A report will be provided to the Board at their September meeting.

#### **PERMITS AND LICENSING UPDATE**

Carleo provided the summary of permits issued since the June 1 meeting. Of note, we had begun to keep tighter records of grease trap cleanings in town. In quarter one, 87,000 gallons of grease was removed from our permitted establishments. On a very small budget of about six thousand dollars, we are potentially preventing tens of thousands of dollars in damage and in labor costs for Public Works. Additionally, Carleo reported that Happy Garden, 75 High Street was allowed to re-open after an emergency closure. They brought in a consultant for corrective actions and brought in a pest control company on an emergency basis with regular treatment going forward. Their variance for acidification of sushi rice is still under suspension until their HACCP plan is improved.

## **NUISANCE REPORT**

Carleo provided the Board with an update of their investigations since the June 1 meeting. Oddly, pest control over the last two months was limited to just 5 complaints. However; there were 13 housing complaints, the majority of which were not actual health threats. It has become common to now contact the Health Inspector when your neighbor has not maintained their landscaping. Each complainant is informed that tall grass is not a health threat in any way shape or form. The Board agreed that these complaints are about “blight” and not a public health nuisance. Carleo also brought up one of the housing complaints he received which was about the status of 65 Purchase Street, a condemned dwelling. He is working with Town Counsel to file a petition for the appointment of a receiver in the Housing Court.

### **UPDATE: 55 CLINTON AVENUE**

Carleo updated the Board on activities at the site since the last meeting. The Police Chief has notified the resident homeless population that the site has been posted “No Trespassing.” They were offered a period of time to gather their belongings and vacate the property. Town Counsel emailed the owner to inform him of our activities and further demanded the he undertake the removal of items which are a threat to public health. The Board will continue to receive updates on this matter.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES**

### **PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT**

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

Ryan recently presented a seminar at the Senior Center with a decent turnout on the subject of dementia behaviors. Carleo remarked that it was good to see more health education along with the routine health promotion activities that our Nurse engages in. Since the last meeting, Ryan assisted the City of Gloucester with the vaccination of Gloucester Fire and Police Departments for Hep B and Tetanus. Additionally, she provided shingles vaccines to homebound elderly residents. She also recently attended a Middlesex Sherriff’s Conference for the Heroin Education Awareness Taskforce. And finally, at her recent Public Health Nurse’s monthly meeting, they toured the quality control building for Legal Seafood in Boston’s Seaport.

### **DISEASE INVESTIGATIONS**

Since the June 1 meeting, Ryan investigated 2 cases of Campylobacteriosis, 1 case of Giardiasis, 1 Group B Streptococcus, 1 Haemophilus Influenza, 1 Hepatitis B, 2 Hepatitis C, 1 Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis, 1 Tuberculosis and 1 case of Varicella. Notably, the one Direct Observation Therapy treatment for an active TB case ended on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Additionally, the varicella case was vaccinated. During the infectious stage of disease there was contacted with an unvaccinated child. The unvaccinated child was quarantined and did not contract illness. Dr McLaughlin inquired how this unvaccinated child was allowed in the school. Carleo stated he was unsure but the child possibly had an exemption from vaccination.

### **MARIJUANA**

Since the June 1 meeting of the Board, Sanctuary Medicinals had received approval from the Board of Selectmen to operate a Medical Marijuana Dispensary. Carleo informed the Board that their next step is to receive licensure from the Department of Public Health.

## **ANIMAL CARE**

### **STRAYS IN NEED**

On behalf of Jean Marcotti, Carleo informed the Board that Strays in Need is currently holding 3 Cats and 1 Kitten.

### **ANIMAL COMPLAINTS**

Carleo provided the Board of Health with a staggering report of animal related issues since the June 1 meeting. Since June 1, 2017 and until August 3, 2017 the Office of the Board of Health received 148 complaints. Forty-One complaints were relative to wildlife nuisances. An additional 73 complaints were uncategorized but animal related. The Board was impressed with the workload handled by Marcotti.

Respectfully submitted for your approval,

Mark L. Carleo  
Clerk for the Board of Health