

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES – September 6, 2017

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

ADMINISTRATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of August 3, 2017.

PERSONNEL UPDATE:

Carleo informed the Board that Dennis Palazzo has been hired as the new part-time inspector to replace Melanie Dineen who took a full-time position in Medford.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

PERMITS AND LICENSING UPDATE

Carleo provided the summary of permits issued since the August 3rd meeting. Very few permits were issued. Of note, were two food establishment permits and one pool permit which were issued to the new facility at St. John's Prep.

NUISANCE REPORT

Carleo summarized the nuisance investigations conducted since the last meeting. In total 31 complaints were received. Pest control complaints remained unusually low for the summer time at 3 for the month. However, two complex housing cases which involved lead paint violations were received. The period before these are resolved can take a few months.

UPDATE: 55 CLINTON AVENUE

Carleo updated the Board on activities at the site since the last meeting. Since the last meeting the homeless individuals who were living there have been removed from the area surrounding the cemetery. The human waste left behind has apparently been removed, however there are still piles of "junk." The Board was not especially convinced that a human health threat remains given that there are non-putrescible materials left behind and the material sits upon a site on the National Priority List. Carleo will remove the item from the agenda and only provide an update if something of significance were to occur such as legal action or full compliance with our original order to correct.

65 PURCHASE STREET

Carleo informed the Board that the documents required for receivership were completed and with Town Counsel and ready to be filed. Hopefully by the next Board meeting, the first hearing will have taken place. Kowalski remarked on the history staff has had of working diligently on distressed properties and turning them around into wonderful new homes. Carleo agreed that this was something to be proud of and that 65 Purchase will hopefully soon be added to that list of homes.

FDA PROGRAM STANDARDS

Carleo has registered for a conference to be held towards the end of September on the Commonwealth's new Foodborne Illness Investigations Manual. This is a document used by environmental health, as well as epidemiologists and the Hinton State Laboratory to conduct their investigations. It was very much

out of date, but has recently been refreshed and brought up to date with current science and practice. It is Carleo's expectation that the Board will adopt this manual as it's official procedure for investigations of foodborne illness. In doing so, the Board will be in greater conformance with Standard 5.

SANDY BEACH SUMMARY

Carleo quickly summarized this season's beach testing which concluded late last week. In sum, there were 3 exceedances of the single sample limit. This only resulted in one closure. All 3 exceedances were during or just after major rain events. This year's data was in sync with our historical data.

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 continues to conduct blood pressure clinics on Thursdays from 8:30 to 11:30am at the Senior Center.

Flu clinics have been scheduled, 9 so far. CVS will again be assisting with vaccinations using a high dose and quadrivalent vaccine. Additionally, they are providing pneumonia vaccinations as well.

DISEASE INVESTIGATIONS

Since the August meeting, Nurse Ryan has received reports of 1 confirmed and 1 probable Hep C, 3 suspect Lyme Disease, 2 confirmed TB and 1 suspect Varicella.

MARIJUANA

Carleo informed the Board that the Commonwealth's Cannabis Control Commission was coming together, chaired by Stephen Hoffman who was a ballot initiative antagonist. They have a budget of 2.3 million dollars and will be undertaking the crafting of regulations. As the Board had agreed some time ago, we will allay any possible local regulation until such time as we have reviewed the state regulation for gaps.

ANIMAL CARE

ANIMAL COMPLAINTS

Carleo provided the board with a report of animal complaints since the last meeting. Numbers were down significantly since the last month. However, Jean has been patrolling parks in the early morning due to an increasing number of leash law violations. Her experience on these patrols has been frustrating and at some points she has been on the receiving end of abusive behavior. The Board was given a copy of an Op-Ed from the Danvers Herald which states that there is no commonsense tactic to leash law enforcement – essentially making the assertion that we should not be enforcing it at all.

Respectfully submitted for your approval,

Mark L. Carleo
Clerk for the Board of Health