

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES – August 2, 2018

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; Edmund Kowalski, Member; Dutrochet Djoko, Member; Judith Ryan, Public Health Nurse; and, Mark L. Carleo, Assistant Director of Public Health.

ADMINISTRATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of June 7, 2018 and June 14, 2018.

NEW BUSINESS

PLUMBING PERMIT FEES

Carleo requested that the Chair skip to NEW BUSINESS, Plumbing Permit Fees to allow the town employees present to leave on time. The Chair agreed.

Present to request an increase in permit fees for plumbing permits was Norman St. Hilaire, Plumbing Inspector, and Richard Maloney, Director of Inspectional Services. Fees were last increased in 2006. After a brief explanation of the new fee structures the new fee schedule was adopted by the Board of Health unanimously.

VARIANCE REQUEST: HONG KONG CAFÉ, 12 MAPLE STREET

Carleo requested that the Chair skip to Variance Request: Hong Kong Café. The Chair agreed.

The Owner of Hong Kong Café, John Ng, was in attendance to present his request for a variance to acidify rice for sushi. Carleo introduced Mr. Ng, and provided the Board with the rationale for acidification of sushi rice. In order to control toxin formation by bacillus cereus, the pH of the rice must be adjusted to below 4.6. The establishment had provided Carleo with a HACCP plan which was suitable. Carleo recommended the Board allow the variance to acidify rice. The Board unanimously voted to approve the variance.

INSTITUTIONAL NOROVIRUS OUTBREAK

Carleo informed the Board that since the last meeting, our Public Health Nurse Judith Ryan had worked with a nursing home to gain control of a norovirus outbreak within the institution. Carleo had requested an “after-action” review of the activities surrounding the outbreak. Present to participate in the discussion was Debbie Sheridan, Assistant Director of Nursing for Hunt Nursing and Retirement Home. Carleo provided a quick overview of the events for all in attendance:

- On Wed June 13, an anonymous concern was relayed to Ryan regarding GI illness at the Hunt Nursing Home.
- On the 14th, Ryan contacted Hunt and spoke to Assistant Director of Nursing Debbie Sheridan. They confirmed suspect cases of norovirus.
- As of the 14th there were 16 suspect cases.
- 6 employees were out sick at the time, but illness was unknown.
- Stool samples were requested to confirm noro or other.
- Ryan informs Hunt staff that cases are still infectious after symptoms resolve.
- Outbreak at the time was limited to one floor.

- No floating staff were allowed
- Staff were re-trained on handwashing, terminal cleaning conducted and 48-hour contact precautions in place.
- Nurse Ryan informs Hunt that contact precaution duration should be 72 hours.
- Nurse Ryan informs Hunt of their failure to report the outbreak to local authorities.
- Ryan remains in contact with Hunt every couple of days for updates and continued monitoring.
- June 26th is the final confirmed cases.
- In total, 31 residents and 19 staff were ill.

Sheridan and Ryan both agreed with that version of events.

The Board, along with Carleo and Ryan asked Sheridan several questions to incite some discussion and understand where those involved found success and failure.

Carleo asked where the 48-hour rather than 72-hour contact precautions came from? Sheridan was unsure, but the policy was updated to 72 hours. Carleo asked about the testing process for norovirus. Sheridan explained the process and a brief discussion ensued. In sum, testing for norovirus is now easier than it used to be, but still takes quite a bit of time. Carleo asked if the state (DPH) provides training on topics such as infection control, provides model policies or any other sort of training? Sheridan replied to do for some topics. Carleo asked what hard surface sanitizer is used during cleaning? Sheridan was unsure and did not have the active ingredient name with her. Carleo asked how the kitchen is affected during these times? Sheridan stated that their foodservice manager Brian was well versed in the requirements for employee illness and exclusion. He had a couple employees who called in sick during the event. Carleo asked if Sheridan had any suggestions on how the Board of Health and their staff can improve in these situations? Sheridan stated that Nurse Ryan's work was extremely helpful in getting the outbreak under control. She appreciated all her time and support. Carleo agreed that Danvers has a superb Public Health Nurse as did the Board. Carleo closed by reminding Sheridan that we are here to support them in their efforts, and in the future, they should not hesitate to contact us right away.

The Board thanked Sheridan for her time and candid responses.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

PERMITS AND LICENSING UPDATE

Carleo informed the Board that permitting is quiet this time of year, but since the last regular meeting he has been working to get our recreational camps for children permitted. During an inspection of Danvers Indoor Sports summer camp, he discovered Gymja Warrior advertising their summer camp without applying for licensure. The owner of the camp was able to pull together his packet of policies and conduct the CORI and SORI checks as required and was permitted. Other permits issued were for temporary food events, farmer's market permits and one late pool.

NUISANCE REPORT

Carleo summarized the nuisance investigations conducted since the last meeting. In total, 44 complaints were investigated since the last meeting. Some challenging housing issues had arisen, but there have been some major successes in this difficult area of environmental health as well. For example, 313 Maple Street was a dilapidated house that has been in disrepair since 1997. Carleo has pursued compliance over the years and the owner finally chose to sell the property. It has since been rehabbed and is currently on the market and well beyond minimum standards. Trinity street is the site of another house which the Board of Health has received numerous complaints on through the years. Recently two selectman and neighbors began inquiring about its status as it was worse than ever. Carleo and Inspector

Dennis Palazzo inspected and found the dwelling to be uninhabitable. After contacting the owner's attorney as the owner is in a nursing home, the attorney informed us that she is currently preparing to clean out the house and put it up for cash sale.

65 PURCHASE STREET

Carleo informed the Board that 65 Purchase Street is coming to a close. Work on the dwelling is done and the legal ad for the receiver's auction has run. The auction is scheduled for August 7th at 11am.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

DISEASE INVESTIGATIONS

Nurse Ryan was present to update the Board of Health on disease investigations and other nursing activities.

Since the last meeting, Ryan received reports of 7 cases of TB, 1 Babesiosis, 4 Calicivirus/Norovirus, 1 Campylobacter, 1 group A Streptococcus, 1 Hep C, 2 Salmonellosis, and 1 Streptococcus Pneumoniae.

NURSE'S REPORT

In addition to her disease investigations, Ryan informed the Board of her other wellness and health promoting activities since the last meeting. The Recreation Department staff received training for stop the bleed, epi-pen administration and tick/mosquito illness prevention. She is working to coordinate CPR and First Aid classes. She is also coordinating CPR and First Aid for school staff as well.

Ryan reported that she had received materials for the "bite lab" which is a DPH funded tick and mosquito illness awareness campaign. She was present at the Farmer's Market and is looking forward to working additional events for this campaign.

Finally, starting in September, the Senior Center will be hosting a "memory lab" on the second Tuesday of the month.

CANNABIS

Carleo provided the Board with a report from the Department of Public Health which contains baseline information on cannabis use in the Commonwealth. This report was generated as required by law and will allow measurements to be made about cannabis use and its effects as recreational cannabis grows in Massachusetts.

ANIMAL CARE

ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Carleo reported on the numerous complaints relative to wildlife and nuisance animals. Additionally, he informed the Board of Health about a case of dog versus dog violence in which the Board of Selectman has been petitioned to hold a hearing on the dangerousness of the dog.

With no further business at hand, the Board adjourned at 9:00PM.

Respectfully submitted for your approval,

Mark L. Carleo
Clerk for the Board of Health