

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES – March 5, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Thomas McLaughlin, MD at the Senior Center at 7:00 P.M. Also in attendance were; Sheila Laffey, Member; Dutrochet Djoko, Member; Judith Ryan, Public Health Nurse; Alicia Linehan, Clerk; and, Mark L. Carleo, Assistant Director of Public Health.

ADMINISTRATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of January 16, 2020, February 6, 2020, and February 20, 2020 were approved as written.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

PUBLIC HEARING: 168 PINE STREET

Carleo introduced the matter of 168 Pine Street to the Board. This was the site of an inspection under Chapter II of the Sanitary Code, and the violations included non-compliant railings on the second floor. The railings have no balusters and pose a hazard to the occupants. The property owner proposed a wire mesh as a solution, and this would take several weeks to install. Carleo stated that the date of compliance was near, and therefore the property owner was present to request an extension of two weeks. Carleo recommended providing the two-week extension.

Djoko motioned to extend the compliance date to March 19th. Laffey seconded, and all were in favor.

PERMITS AND LICENSING UPDATE

Carleo updated the Board on recent permitting. Since the February 6th meeting, 6 food establishment permits were issued. Carleo highlighted that there was another application for a food establishment to operate in 10 Garden Street. This is a shared kitchen serving as a commissary for numerous small businesses and food trucks. He has enjoyed seeing these small companies start up and grow right here in Danvers. A great success story is Cookie Monstah, who began operating out of a shared kitchen at 41 Prince Street, and now is one of the best food trucks in the Commonwealth.

FDA PROGRAM STANDARDS

Carleo reminded the Board that the Health Department is enrolled in the FDA Program Standards for Retail Food Establishments. This is a program which sets a high bar for agencies to meet in their pursuit of greater food safety controls in the industry. The program has been dormant for some time as we transitioned into a Health and Veterans' Department. Carleo's intention is to reinvigorate this program. This begins with staff assembling and issuing a "blue binder" to each establishment in Town. These binders, assembled by our Environmental Health Inspector Dennis Palazzo will provide materials such as job aids to assist in controlling risk factors for foodborne illness, as well as administrative documents such as their permit, and the latest inspection report. Carleo will update the Board on progress.

VIOLATIONS/NUISANCE REPORT

GREAT ROCK CHURCH, 352 ANDOVER STREET: NOISE COMPLAINT

Carleo informed the Board that recently, we were receiving complaints about air quality relative to an outdoor hydronic heater used by this Church. When we reviewed the operation, they were in compliance. The periods where black smoke were emitted were occurring when the door was opened to re-load with wood. This is typical and not a nuisance.

Further up the street at their thrift shop location, we are receiving noise complaints. The church operates a program for “at-risk” men who break down tree trunks, and split logs, using chainsaws. The church was in discussions with the condo association where the complaints were originating from.

In response, Carleo obtained a noise meter from MADEP, and began taking measurements. He described the method and procedure to the Board which includes hundreds of measurements of background noise, and then measurements of the operation in question.

Initial measurements of the noise showed a likely violation of state law. The church has reapproached the condo association to continue discussions and attempt a voluntary resolution.

NUISANCE REPORT

Since the February 6, 2020 meeting, Carleo received the following complaints: 1 Food, 9 animal related complaints, 1 pest control complaint.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

NURSE’S REPORT

DISEASE INVESTIGATION

Nurse Ryan highlighted that we have received 31 influenza cases. This is high but slowing down since the last meeting. Our long-term care facilities did well in reducing the spread, but our younger residents in the community at-large made up most of the cases.

Ryan provided the Board with a run down on all other diseases reported.

CORONAVIRUS

We received one suspect case of a woman potentially having COVID. She was quarantined, her fourteen days were up, and she was released. Danvers currently has no cases of COVID. Ryan is closely following the CDC for updated guidance on this matter.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

4 Danvers high students, and 3 college students are working with the Social Seniors program. Additionally, Ryan was working to put together a public forum for information on respiratory illness.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Ryan is working on improving our plans to address special populations such as the homebound. In addition, she is working with the region's nurses to update the Pandemic Plans.

Staff and the Board engaged in a discussion surrounding COVID policies, such as entry into the US, and the status of the pandemic globally.

ANIMAL HEALTH

ACO

On behalf of Animal Control, Carleo reported 14 missing or found pet calls, 1 inquiry from a shelter, 6 roadkill pick-ups, 18 wildlife concerns, and 5 quarantined dogs. Carleo informed the Board that animal control does not technically come under the purview of the Board of Health, but that staff share this information with the Board as there certainly is a correlation between the health of the animal population, and human population.

NEW BUSINESS

Resident Bill Bates was present and requested to be heard by the Board on the matter of the Village Food Shop, who was recently issued a fine and suspension of the tobacco retailer permit. The Chair declined to hear any additional business which was not on the agenda.

With no further business at hand, the Board adjourned.

Respectfully submitted for your approval,



Mark L. Carleo
Acting Director of Public Health