

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES – June 6, 2019

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

UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR: Peter Mirandi was present to provide the Board with a brief report on the ending of fiscal year 2019. In sum, there is minimal staffing for the Board of Health, we are level funded for the following year; however, there was a budget surplus in the operating line items.

Additionally, Mirandi informed the Board that at DanversCARES, Selectman Chairman Dan Bennett spoke with Mirandi and Djoko regarding a voluntary prohibition of water bottles by staff and members of Boards and Committees in Danvers during meeting times. Dr. McLaughlin expressed his support for this measure stating that the Town of Danvers has the best public water supply in the area. Kowalski suggested we provide reusable/washable water bottles with the public health logo to the Board of Selectman.

In other news relative to DanversCARES, Mirandi asked the Board to recognize Judith Ryan for her devoted work with DanversCARES and congratulate her for her appointment as Co-Chair of the organization.

The Board thanked Mirandi for his updates, and Mirandi left the meeting room.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of May 2, 2019, as written.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

PERMITS AND LICENSING UPDATE

Carleo reported on permits issued since the last meeting.

In sum, May was a busy month of permitting our semi-public swimming pools, preparing to license our camps, as well as food establishment re-inspections.

NUISANCE REPORT

Carleo provided the highlights from the previous month's investigations. In sum, wildlife calls consumed the lion's share of staff time.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

NURSE'S REPORT

Nurse Ryan was present to provide her routine updates to the Board.

INFLUENZA

Nurse Ryan reported on a 5 year old with Type A, and a 31 and 96 year old with Type B. According to a seminar on influenza she attended recently, the 2017/2018 flu season was worse than this year.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

Nurse Ryan continues to attend the Recovery Centers of America Advisory Board and Infection Control Committee. Additionally, she continues to attend DanversCARES, and conduct her wellness clinics at the Senior Center and Fairweather Apartments.

At a recently attended MA Public Health Nurse's Conference, the topic was climate change and the public health issues which are emerging/re-emerging because of it.

MA DPH held a seminar on immunization and there was some discussion about removing religious or philosophical exemptions for vaccination. Three years ago, DPH was seriously considering pushing for this change. That has recently reversed as they found other states saw increases in medical exemptions after the elimination of religious exemptions. Dr. McLaughlin reaffirmed the authority of the Board of Health and the School Department to quarantine unvaccinated children from school during an outbreak of illness.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The coalition is currently looking at doing a table top exercise for emerging infectious disease as a drill rather than using the flu clinics for the coming year. This is in early discussion.

DISEASE INVESTIGATIONS

Nurse Ryan reported on a salmonella case that was mishandled by a physician. The case was put on antibiotics and then sent in a subsequent stool sample without waiting 48 hours after cessation of therapy. Therefore, another sample was required and the case was kept out of work by Ryan, after the physician mistakenly told the case to return to work 24 hours after symptoms resolve.

With no further business at hand, the Board adjourned at 8:30PM.

Respectfully submitted for your approval,

Mark L. Carleo
Clerk for the Board of Health