

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES – September 12, 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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of June 6, 2019 and August 1, 2019 as written. Carleo has requested approval from the Director of Land Use and Community Services for a Board of Health Clerk who will record and draft meeting minutes for the Board in order to avoid delays in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

NATIONAL GRID GAS LEAKS / METHANE:

Carleo requested that the Chairman alter the order of the agenda to suit our esteemed guest, Daniel Bennett, Chairman of the Board of Selectman. The Chair approved and provided Mr. Bennett the floor.

Mr. Bennett was present to request support from the Board of Health for action by the Board of Selectmen or State Legislature in regard to natural gas leaks due to aging infrastructure. Most recent records show that Danvers has 106 documented natural gas leaks. It is generally suspected that this number belies the real quantity of leaks. Every leak is tiered 1, 2 or 3, with one being the most severe threat to the public. There is currently no requirement that natural gas providers repair all documented leaks of natural gas. Mr. Bennet asserts that this is unacceptable given the threat to our environment this poses. Methane, a major component of natural gas is a significant contributor to climate change as it is a potent greenhouse gas.

Carleo provided several current and very real examples of how climate change is negatively impacting public health, from vibrio in northeastern harvested shellfish, expanding threat of arbovirus, and even heat related illness and deaths.

The Board unanimously voted to express its support in a motion offered by Djoko:

“The Danvers Board of Health is cognizant of the recent reports of leaking pressurized gas lines. Because the makeup of this natural gas is primarily methane – a strong greenhouse gas and an important agent of climate change – we support legislation forcing meaningful and timely fixes or, any other remedial action as determined by the Danvers Board of Selectmen.”

Mr. Bennett thanked the Board for their time and support.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

PUBLIC HEARING: VILLAGE FOOD SHOP / REQUEST TO NULLIFY AGREEMENT OF 04/04/19

Carleo re-introduced Darshna Patel, owner of Village Food Shop on High Street. She was present with a possibly unprecedented request for the Board; to nullify a prior vote of the Board to hold her fine and permit suspension for a violation of the “flavored tobacco ban.” In sum, she stated she was not clear that

by holding these violations in abeyance, that this extended the tolling period for her first violation an additional two years. After receiving a violation from a youth access compliance check by the US Food and Drug Administration, she feared facing a potential thirty-day suspension of her permit.

Carleo strongly objected to this request and urged the Board to decline, citing the minutes of April 4th's meeting which states in part:

“Carleo interjected to make clear to Patel that in the instance of a third violation any time in the next two years, she will be subject to a \$200 fine, a \$300 fine, a seven-day suspension and a thirty-day suspension of her tobacco permit. He advised her to strongly consider this before a formal vote of the Board takes place.

Patel agreed to the abeyance and the Board voted unanimously to approve Djoko’s motion.”

The Board unanimously voted to reject Patel’s request and advised her on various strategies to avoid future compliance issues.

PERMITS AND LICENSING UPDATE

Carleo reported on permits issued since the last meeting.

In sum, two new food establishment permits were issued along with one temporary food, and 1 transportation of offensive substances permit. Carleo highlighted the two new food establishments that were permitted. The location which housed the former catering company Holten-Brandi Foods at 10 Garden Street has been taken over by the owners of Henry’s in Beverly and the facility is now a “commissary” or shared kitchen. This is a somewhat new concept which allows very small food businesses an affordable opportunity to get started. Currently, there are seven permitted food businesses operating out of the facility. While this does present some challenges from time to time, all parties are interested in maintaining compliance, and Carleo is happy to provide the direction and education that is required in order to assist these entrepreneurs grow their business responsibly.

NUISANCE REPORT

Carleo provided the highlights from the previous month’s investigations. Rodent complaints continue to remain low with only two reports since the last meeting. There were an additional 3 institutional sanitation complaints, one food safety complaint, and one air quality complaint.

MOSQUITO CONTROL

Carleo provided the Board with a copy of the 2019 Best Management Practice Plan for the Town of Danvers. In part, this plan describes the available, and escalating measures which can be used as an intervention to prevent the spread of arbovirus.

He further recommended that current risk levels suggest that we urge residents to protect themselves and their families by limiting outdoor hours between dusk and dawn, and when not possible to do so, to use repellent containing DEET, and wear appropriate clothing. Additionally, we advise all to remove standing water from their property, and to check and repair holes in screens or damaged structural elements which allow mosquito entry.

Adulticiding has demonstrated to be of little assistance in preventing the spread of virus, however barrier sprays are a reasonable intervention for large gatherings and could be used later in the season as pest or

disease pressure indicates. This entails the application of a low toxicity deltamethrin pesticide, which has a 30-day residual around the perimeter of gathering areas. This works when applied to a tree-line or hedgerow, so it is not effective at all locations.

The Board accepted Carleo's recommendation.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

NURSE'S REPORT

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

COMMUNITY HEALTH

DanversCARES will hold their first meeting of the year on September 9th and Nurse Ryan will begin serving as the Co-Chair. Additionally, Ryan has been a guest on a DCAT production with Djoko to discuss public health issues, and so far, they have covered arbovirus threats.

INFLUENZA

Standing orders have not yet been issued, but clinics are being scheduled. So far, the Senior Center will host a clinic on September 16, Town employees will be vaccinated October 17th, and schools as well as Recovery Centers of America are to be announced.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Preparation for a tabletop drill within this region has begun. Details to follow.

DISEASE INVESTIGATIONS

Nurse Ryan reported on her investigations of reportable illnesses since the prior meeting. This included informing the Board that the Department of Public Health has ordered that all unexplained, progressive symptoms including shortness of breath, fatigue, chest pain, cough, and weight loss of any severity, and an abnormal chest imaging study associated with vaping in the previous 90 days. Several unusual illnesses were reported for follow up as well which included a shiga-toxin producing organism, *Vibrio* sp., and Salmonellosis.

ANIMAL HEALTH

Carleo provided the Board with a summary of the animal health and animal control issues since the last meeting. Since the last meeting there were 6 domestic animal nuisance issues, 6 wildlife complaints, and 4 quarantines.

NEW BUSINESS

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Carleo asked the Board to table this discussion for a future meeting as some internal discussion is ongoing. The Board was provided a model regulation and background document at a prior meeting, and they should continue studying these documents for later action.

UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Prior to the Chair calling for a motion to adjourn, Peter Mirandi joined the Board to inform them that he has provided notice to the Town Manager that he intends to retire as of February 10, 2019. The Board expressed their gratefulness to Peter for his lengthy service to the Town, and his steadfast, professional leadership through some very complex matters over the years.

With no further business at hand, the Board adjourned at 8:25PM.

Respectfully submitted for your approval,

Mark L. Carleo
Clerk for the Board of Health