

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES – November 9, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Chair Thomas McLaughlin, MD, held at Danvers Town Hall at 6:00 P.M. Also, in attendance were Dutrochet Djoko, Member; Sheila Laffy, Member; Judith Ryan, Public Health Nurse; Alicia Linehan, Clerk and, Ade Solarin, Director of Public Health.

1. Administrative

- a) Notice of the meeting as posted by the Town Clerk
- b) The minutes of October 7, 2021 meeting were approved as written.

2. Variance Request Isla Bonita

Nancy Rodriguez, owner of Isla Nutrition is requesting a variance because there will be no grease involved at this establishment. It will consist of protein drinks made from powder and water. And the only reason for a sink is to rinse out the blender and measuring scoops. Mr. Solarin recommends approving the variance request as presented.

MOTION: Djoko motioned to approve the variance; Laffy second; all in favor

3. Variance Request Hisso Sushi

David Neal represented Hisso Sushi; a sushi establishment located within the deli department of Stop & Shop at 301 Newbury Street. They passed the Board of Health inspection, conducted yesterday. They are requesting permission to conduct a specialized food process that varies from the code, to hold the rice for sushi at room temperature by using the acidification process rather than holding it at temperatures required by the food code, below 41 degrees Fahrenheit. The process includes mixing the rice with vinegar and keeping the mixture at a PH of 3.7 to 4.1 with a read of the rice every 4 hours. The fish will be received frozen from an approved food source. The Board of Health requires an amended hazard plan which will include these variance requests. The permit will be issued once the amended hazard plan is received.

MOTION: Djoko motioned to approve the variance under the condition that the hazard plan is amended to include the disposal of the rice every 4 hours and that the fish remains frozen and is received from an approved food source; Laffy second; all in favor

4. Request for compliance time extension – 307 Locust Street

This is the dwelling unit that was condemned in July. Mr. Solarin has been working with the owner to bring the dwelling into compliance. Additional time has been requested to comply with the violations. Last week a dumpster was onsite to rid the home of items; an estimate was received for construction of the porch; fire/smoke detectors were installed. The plumbing work is scheduled for this weekend. They are requesting a two-week extension but given the pace so far, two weeks might not be an adequate time frame. Mr. Solarin is recommending a month's extension. The occupant is living with her son and

does not qualify for housing because the home was condemned. Once the home is fixed, she can apply for housing.

MOTION: Djoko motioned to issue a month's extension; Laffy second; all in favor

5. Special Project 2015A: Environmental Impact Report & Independent Health Impact Assessment

Special Project 2015A is a proposed 55 mega-watt capacity reliability resource to be constructed on a site shared with the Peabody Municipal Light Plant. Dr. Allan was present to discuss the potential environmental and health impacts of this plant. Also requesting all support in writing to Governor Baker to request that an environmental and health assessment be conducted before the approval of Special Project 2015A. Dr. Allen is a Senior Medical Director of quality safety and accessibility at North Shore Physician Group. She is the Associate Medical Director for primary care at Controlled Risk Insurance Company. Also, a member of Climate Code Blue and serves on the Town of Belmont Board of Health.

Dr. Allen oversees quality for all North Shore Physicians Group from patients from Saugus to Rowley. The community in the area has a lot of underlying conditions that are already impacted without any additional air pollution. There is a high respiratory issue rate for North Shore patients and disproportionate to the rest of Mass General and Brigham Women's Health Care. In her experience, Essex County has had an air quality rating of an "F" from the American Lung Association for every year until this year which received a rating of a "D" and this could be due to the lack of commuting caused by COVID. Suffolk and Middlesex counties are at a "B" rating. Contributors could be the existing power plants in the area or other factors. Because of the underlying conditions of the patients, the health quality assessment would clear metrics. Poor air quality had increased the effects of Covid and because this is not seizing anytime soon, this is another reason to request this assessment. Dr. McLaughlin stated that there is also a high rate of pediatric asthma in Essex county.

Logan Malik with the MA Climate Action Network stated that the reason the assessment was never conducted is because it is an issue of timing. A climate law was passed in 2021, an act creating a next generation roadmap for MA climate policy, Net Zero emissions in 2050. Under this law, the plant would have been required to conduct an environmental assessment. This project was initially conceived in 2015 and because they applied at that time, they are not required to conduct one. The Peabody Board of Health has already submitted a letter to Governor Baker requesting this assessment. Due to the change in the 2020 maps, this project is now located within Danvers environmental injustice community.

Sally Kearns, State Representative, stated that the plant has not agreed to conduct the assessment. MWIK, who is responsible for the Special Project 2015A, had an impressive team of lawyers representing them at previous public meetings. The location of this plant is in the Mills 58 on Pulaski Street which is near Danvers port area, yet Danvers was never consulted. Kearns has made an appeal to the Secretary of Environment Affairs as recently as last week requesting that the Secretary use authority to not permit the plant because Peabody doesn't need to build this plant to gain peak capacity. They could have reapplied

to adhere to the climate law passed in 2021. This affect any heating or lighting issues for the City of Peabody, nor will it decrease rates for the city, since they are already at the lowest rates in the area.

According to the presentation conducted to Danvers, the project will run 2.72 percent of the time. This will increase the amount of pollution when restarted.

There is more chance of reopening the process through residents' petitions along with Boards of Health requesting an amendment with a full environmental & health assessment.

The Board has agreed to send a letter to Governor Baker.

6. Mask Discussion – Danvers Indoor Sports

Ryan received a call from the General Manager of Danvers Indoor Sports, asking about a mask mandate. She told them that they have every right to impose a mask mandate. But because the staff was being bullied, DIS was requesting the Board of Health to assist with this mandate. With the vaccinations now being given to youth, this should become a game changer and the establishment should adopt immunization of staff and customers. However, because this is a privately owned business, and unless there is a Town wide mask mandate, the Board of Health can not mandate for an individual privately owned business. If someone is entering the premises and breaking the rules, this would be trespassing and warrants assistance of the DPD.

7. COVID-19 updates/Disease surveillance/Clinics

10/7 through 11/4 are 190 cases, last month was 286 cases. It is all Delta Variants. Most break-through cases are presented through a stuffy nose or sore throat, cold/allergy symptoms. Majority of people are those who have been vaccinated but did not receive the booster. The hospitalized cases are those who are unvaccinated. Have had some reinfections.

6.6968	28.2218	67.6742
6.8364	29.1882	76.219
9.6427	37.8289	78.4668
10.2094	38.2067	85.5825
10.3135		
10.4778	39.1239	
14.0315	39.6194	
15.885	40.9856	
17.0376	45.4949	
18.7461	50.2012	
20.1369	50.3025	
23.1239	52.3943	
25.0705	53.859	
25.2841	55.6687	
27.269	60.3833	

61.3771
62.2533
65.7029

Booster clinics will be held for First Responders on December 2nd in Marblehead. Currently looking for a location to hold one in Danvers.

Schools are still having issues, currently working on a cluster in one of the classrooms. Ryan is calling the state for some guidance.

Daycares are starting to see a flux of COVID cases. Ryan had one of the daycares shut down because the owner is not vaccinated and not sure if the staff is vaccinated.

There are 3 facilities that are experiencing a rise in cases. One is assisted living which is way over 20 cases.

Vaccination rates for last week

All residents	67/8%
51-65:	72/7%
41 -50:	67/9%
23-40:	63/8%
16-22:	62/7%
12-15	48/8%

Non-Covid related:

Campylobacteriosis – 1 case

HGA (tick born illness) – 1 case

8. Any additional Board of Health-related topics/comments

Dr. McLaughlin thanked Ade Solarin for his time with Danvers and wishes him luck.

With no further business at hand, the Board adjourned.

Respectfully submitted for your approval,



Ade Solarin
Director of Public Health