

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES – March 2, 2006

The hearing was called to order by Chairperson Linda Carroll, in the Senior Center Conference Room at 7:00 P.M. with the reading of the public notice, posted by the Town Clerk. Also in attendance were: Robert Kellard M.D Member; Peter Mirandi, Director of Public Health; Mark Carleo, Public Health Inspector; Leo Cormier, Middleton Health Agent and Bob Ambrefe, Chairman of the Middleton Board of Health. Absent was Edmund Kowalski, Member; and Leslie Carabello, Public Health Nurse.

Representing the Sheraton Ferncroft Resort was Lisa Berger, Berger Food Safety Consulting; Ed Crowley, Perminate Pest Elimination; Phil Riley, Attorney; Robin Kirk, Vice President of Sage Hospitality; Tom Sprankle, General Manager, Paul Harubin, Director of Food and Beverage; as well as numerous other hotel staff and management.

After a brief introduction of all parties, Chairperson Carroll asked Mirandi for a chronological order of events leading up to this hearing.

Mirandi began by stating that complaints were received from Verizon and were investigated. During the course of inspection, the hotel management rose issues of jurisdiction. Due to these concerns, Health Officers for Middleton and Danvers conducted a joint inspection. Numerous critical violations were observed and documented. However, no imminent threat to public health existed at that time. This resulted in a *suspension of a permit to operate a food establishment with notice*. A re-inspection was conducted earlier this day and Health Officers for Danvers and Middleton observed an almost complete turnaround in the Sheraton's pre-requisite sanitation programs. In addition, they have voluntarily enlisted the services of Lisa Berger of Berger Food Safety Consulting.

Chairperson Carroll asked Ms. Berger for her observations and actions thus far, and her plans for continuous improvement at the Sheraton Ferncroft.

Ms. Berger stated she had immediately conducted training of personnel. She stated she will certainly conduct more training and frequent inspections, however; a schedule for these inspections had not been settled on between Berger Food Safety Consulting and Sage Hospitality.

At this time, Robin Kirk interjected; stating the inspections will be as often as pleases the Board. In the beginning they will be quite frequent, and as the Sheraton regains the trust of the Board, the inspections will become less frequent.

Dr. Kellard requested a report from the pest control technician.

Mr. Crowley of Perminate Pest Elimination has implemented a pest elimination plan that included sealing holes, treating areas and setting out hundreds of traps throughout the hotel. All traps are routinely inspected and emptied. Once the indoor pest elimination is complete, they will conduct routine, but aggressive outdoor pest control.

Chairperson Carroll offered Chairman Ambrefe of the Middleton Board of Health an opportunity to speak but he politely declined. The Chair then asked Mirandi for a recommendation.

Mirandi recommended that the Board not suspend the permit of the Sheraton Ferncroft and that they be allowed to operate with assistance from their professional consultants.

The Board unanimously voted to allow the Sheraton Ferncroft Resort to operate their food establishment with the following stipulations: Weekly inspections by Berger Food Safety Consulting and Perminate Pest Elimination. Weekly reports from both contractors must be sent through the office of Berger Food Safety Consulting to the office of the Board of Health for Danvers and copied to the office of the Board of Health for Middleton. Finally, prior to the monthly Board of Health meeting in Danvers for the month of April, the Board requested a re-inspection by their staff.

On behalf of Sage Hospitality and the Sheraton Ferncroft Resort, Robin Kirk thanked the Board of Health for their consideration and appreciated the assistance provided to them in this difficult transitional period. Mr. Kirk was confident in the services of Lisa Berger and Ed Crowley and assured the Board that the Sheraton Ferncroft will become the premier hotel on the North Shore.

With no further business at hand, the Board adjourned at 7:13 P.M.

Respectfully submitted for your approval,

Mark L. Carleo, CEHT
Board of Health Clerk