

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES – October 2, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Kellard, at 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:; Edmund Kowalski, Member; Martha Swindell, Member; Peter Mirandi, Director of Public Health; Mark Carleo, Public Health Inspector; and, Marian Myers, Epidemiologist. Jean Marcotti, Animal Care Specialist and Tracy Camarro, Public Health Nurse were excused.

ADMINISTRATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 4, 2008

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of September 4, 2008.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

LICENSING & PERMITS

Carleo reported the following permits have been issued since the September meeting:

Type	Monthly Since Last Meeting (09/04/08)	YTD Year to Date (Beginning July 1, 2007)
Body Art (Indv.)	0	4
Body Art (Est.)	0	3
Disposal Works	0	0
Food Est.	5	211
Funeral Dir.	0	0
Mass Est	0	0
Motels	0	0
Pools	0	40
Rec Camps	0	5
Septage Haulers	0	2
Tanning Est.	0	0
Man Housing	0	0
Wells	0	0

Total	5	265

REQUEST FOR A VARIANCE FROM THE PLUMBING CODE

Carleo presented to the Board a request for a variance from the plumbing code from Oleksandr Bublik, 55 Abington Road. He was requesting to install a massage tub which is not an approved fixture in the Commonwealth. After having a discussion with the Plumbing Inspector Carleo was still unclear what if any criteria existed for a plumbing fixture to be approved. The only public health concern he raised with this fixture was backflow prevention on the water jets and an inadequate or non-existent air-gap with the shower hose. The applicant provided a note from his plumber that backflow prevention devices will be installed for the water jets and a vacuum breaker on the shower handle. Not seeing any other public health significance from this request the Board unanimously granted the variance.

DUMPSTER REGULATION

Present to opine on the adoption of the proposed dumpster regulation was Eric Boucher of McKinnon's. The Board asked for his opinion on the matter. Boucher stated that McKinnon's already is conducting routine pest control for the exterior of their property and maintains the dumpster area in a clean and sanitary condition and questioned the need for another permit. The Board asked if McKinnon's was either for or against the proposal. Boucher stated McKinnon's does not believe it is necessary and will therefore be against it. Carleo informed Boucher that their having not read the draft regulation, some of their concerns were misguided. The permit requirement is not for any establishment or homeowner who maintains a dumpster on their property. The permit requirement is for the companies which haul solid waste through the Town of Danvers. Mirandi further added that a permit requirement for them is not new, but rather a codified section of MGL c. 111 § 31(A). Carleo added that the registration requirement for each dumpster is not the burden of the person maintaining the dumpster but again, the hauling company. Finally, the purpose of the registration is not to target the food establishments which we already know have dumpsters and are inspected routinely, but rather in situations such as long term construction projects which we have no prior knowledge of. Its intent is to assist Inspectors in attempting to draw a correlation between the numerous rodent and solid waste complaints received.

Another opinion on the regulation was offered by Town Meeting Member Eleanor Ross by e-mail to Mirandi. Carleo asked the Board if he could address her 11 comments one at a time and was given the floor. Firstly, her offer of support to vote in the affirmative on the Town Meeting floor was appreciated, however the Board of Health is authorized by statute to adopt its own regulations. Second, we are specifically prohibited by statute to regulate the times in which hauling companies operate. Third, an intern for the Board of Health has already compiled a list of hauling companies from the yellow pages. They will of course be sent a copy of the regulations in order to comply, however we would decline to send them a detail of the penalties for non-compliance. Carleo does not wish to start a business relationship by threatening these companies. Fourth, no incentive such as the first year free would be needed. Mirandi disagreed, but this is something the Board can decide in the future. Fifth, while some of the dumpsters may be from New Hampshire, we will permit them as they are discovered. Sixth, no committee such as her example of the "fence viewers" would be necessary. These sites will not be routinely monitored, nor do they need to. This will mostly serve to expedite any investigation. Seventh, while not sure what is meant by "controlled annually" the permits will be issued annually. Eighth; Carleo disagrees entirely that the dumpster companies don't want to comply. Massachusetts Law requires that they obtain a permit from the Board. They factor this in as a cost of doing business. Again, we don't view ourselves as adversaries of the dumpster companies. Ninth, we agree that a statement such as "each day shall constitute a separate violation" should be included. Tenth, there is no public health rationale for fencing in the dumpster area. In many cases such as a construction project on a single family dwelling, that would be entirely unreasonable and cost prohibitive. Garbage or rubbish on the ground is a violation of the regulation. Eleventh, Carleo emphatically disagreed that this is a cleanliness and appearance issue. This is a Public and Environmental Health issue and any decision must be made within this context.

The topic was tabled for an additional opportunity for interested parties to comment.

FOOD SAFETY FORUM

Carleo reminded the Board of the upcoming food safety forum. Dr. Kellard agreed to attend this event. The agenda was finalized, representatives from MDPH and USFDA would be present and Carleo was hopeful that the event would be a success.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE'S REPORT

Nurse Camarro informed the Board that flu clinic's will be held on October 24th at North Shore Community College and two additional clinics at the Senior Center on November 13th and 14th. Additionally, Nurse Camarro's intern from the Albany School of Pharmacy will be conducting prescription interaction checks. Finally, during the Town Government Open House, on October 16th, Nurse Camarro and Assistant Public Health Nurse Patricia Langmaid will be conducted blood pressure checks.

EPIDEMIOLOGIST REPORT

Epidemiologist Myers gave the monthly disease investigation report.

The following diseases have been reported since the June 5 2008 meeting:

	Since Last Meeting (06/05/08)	Year to Date (Beginning July 1, 2007)
Aeromonas Hydrophilia	0	0
Babesiosis	0	2
Campylobacter Enteritis	0	6
Chicken Pox	0	2
Clostridium	0	0
Cryptosporidium	2	7
Dengue Fever	0	0
EColi 0157:H7	0	1
Ehrlichiosis	0	1
Erlichia Chaff.	0	0
Enterovirus	0	1
Giardiasis	0	6
Group A Strept	0	1
Group B Strept	0	0
Hepatitis A	0	1
Hepatitis B	0	4
Hepatitis C	0	12
Influenza	0	0
Latent TB Infection	0	2
Legionellosis	0	3
Lyme Disease	4	40
M.R.S.A.	0	0
Aseptic Meningitis	0	1
Bacterial Meningitis	0	0
Nisseria Meningitis	0	0
Pertussis	0	2
Pneumonia	0	1
Salmonellosis	0	9
Shigellosis	0	2

Streptococcus pneumonia	0	5
Toxoplasma IGG	0	1
Tuberculosis	0	6
Tuberculosis follow up	0	2
West Nile Virus	0	0
Yersinia Enterocolytica	0	0

TOTAL =	6	117

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mirandi reported that “Casual for a Cause” at Town Hall was a success. Each employee was allowed to wear jeans to work if they donated five dollars. Over six hundred dollars were raised.

ANIMAL CONTROL

STRAYS IN NEED

Marcotti reported that SIN was planning for several upcoming events including the “Blessing of the Animals” and a “Walk.”

RABIES REPORT

No bites occurred since the last meeting.

PEST CONTROL

Carleo reported that the review of our Integrated Pest Management Plans continues. No positive mosquitoes other than the one captured in August were reported.

TOBACCO CONTROL

Mirandi attempted to explain a “hookah bar” to the Board. This is becoming a popular activity once again.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Mirandi informed the Board that a meeting with Beverly Hospital would be held soon. He will report back with details at the next meeting. Mirandi also reminded the Board that our flu clinics are considered to be an emergency preparedness drill.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Kellard recognized a member of the audience and inquired as to what business she has with the Board. Connie Sardelis, formerly of 13 Putnam Street was present to inform the Board that she resided at 13 Putnam Street for 2 years and 8 months and then became ill. She complained of frequent respiratory illness and blamed mercury poisoning and fibromyalgia. Further, she stated that she had requested an inspection of her dwelling from Peter Mirandi who refused. Mirandi informed the Board that he had attempted four times to contact Ms. Sardelis by e-mail, and no such request for an inspection was made; only information was requested.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:30PM.

Respectfully submitted for your approval,

Mark L. Carleo, CEHT
Board of Health Clerk