

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES – June 7, 2012
Daniel J. Toomey Hearing Room – Danvers Town Hall, One Sylvan Street, Danvers, MA

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Edmund Kowalski, at the Danvers Town Hall in the Daniel J. Toomey Hearing Room at 7:00 P.M. with the reading of the public notice, posted by the Town Clerk. Also in attendance were: Dr. Kellard, Member; Martha Swindell, Member; Peter Mirandi, Director of Public Health. Ms. Molly Buccini was also present from the Danvers Patch.

ADMINISTRATIVE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Swindell motioned to approve the April 19, 2012 meeting minutes. Dr. Kellard seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

HAZARDOUS WASTE UPDATE – 33 Water Street

A PowerPoint presentation update was presented by Mass DEP & US EPA for the Board of Health. Among the presenters were Kate Renehan, Ted Bzenas and Nancy Smith and Megan Cassidy from the EPA; Chris Pyott from Mass DEP.

Chris Pyott presented the history of the site. He stated that this tannery was located at 33 Water Street from 1903-1914. In 1914, they needed more space and expanded to 55 Clinton Avenue from 1914 to 1981. DEP found that the level of contamination caused a risk. Mr. Pyott added that the current landowners did not have the resources to do the required clean-up. The site is very complex.

Ms. Megan Cassidy stated that the EPA got involved because they are the Federal Agency responsible for 6 New England States. They were assisting at 55 Clinton Avenue because the owner needed more help. As a part of their investigations, they came across information that led them to investigate across the river. Through historical information and where they were seeing the contamination on both sides of the river, they proposed to put this site on the National Priorities List (NPL) also called the superfund site list. This Town and residents of the affected property are already in process. Next, the Governor has to give a recommendation. The timeline is to propose the site onto the NPL in September of 2012. There will be a 60 day public comment period following. Pending resolution of the comments, the site will be finalized on the NPL.

Ted Bzenas from the EPA, is the person on site that has been doing the actual work. His part of the job is the quicker, immediate clean up. Bzenas stated that the levels of arsenic found exceeded state imminent hazard levels. The current clean-up activity is at 33 Water Street, in the backyard of one condo buildings. Chromium did not require immediate clean up, but the arsenic did. The clean-up field work began on April 24, 2012. He anticipates that it will take 6 to 8 weeks to complete. Bzenas stated that they excavated and capped the area, then re-vegetate. The short term clean-up did not take all of the arsenic and chromium. Air samples were also collected and the contractors wore respirators to protect against exposure. The backfill and loam were all analyzed before use.

Ed Kowalski stated that Rep. Tedd Speliotis was present in the audience along with a Rep. from John Tierney's office.

The owner from a day care business located across the street asked if the residents were in danger. Ted Bazenias stated that he did not see any problem with the residents being exposed.

Tom Manual asked if this is the final action on this property and about the testing wells on Merrill Street. Megan Cassidy replied that there will be ongoing monitoring of this site. She added that the work that they did does not qualify fully characterized and that they will must wait until the NPL is published before committing to moving forward on a fully characterize a site, as it is a comprehensive investigation, including investigation in Crane River.

Pete Clemens stated that he would like to know when and where they are doing their investigations as he feels that he can help them because he knows the area so well.

Michael Splaine asked what brought this to their attention. Chris Pyott stated it was brought to their attention in the 1980s.

Rep. Tedd Speliotis stated that the problem was much bigger than 55 Clinton Avenue. He added that the landowner wanted to develop this site and at this time he tried to address these concerns.

Martha Swindell asked about the MBTA owned area. Chris Pyott stated that they found that there were animal hides and leather scraps in this particular area which then presents dioxin. He stated that this is a short term area that will be included as part of the NPL site. Chris Pyott will call MBTA and make sure that they put some signage.

Martha Swindell also asked how they ever got a permit to build on such a contaminated site? Chris Pyott stated that they have one report from 1984 to 1985 stating that a couple of borings were done and at that time, the levels were not of concern. Chris Pyott stated that the Danvers Historical Archives are excellent and extremely helpful and very organized, most towns and cities do not have as much information, if any.

Ed Kowalski stated in summary, they are waiting to get on the NPL site from the Superfund? Chris Pyott stated, yes, and Megan Cassidy added that the next major hurdle is getting the Governor's letter. They have put a June 29th deadline on this letter.

Ted Speliotis thanked the EPA and the DEP for all that they have done and what they are doing. From the beginning, they have been very sensitive with the information so that they don't affect the condo owner's property values going down. He stated that we need reassurance that they are going in the right direction. He wanted to commend the EPA and DEP for the sensitivity to the condo owners Megan Cassidy stated that the Agency's mission is to protect the public health and environment. They reached out to everyone and will continue to do so. Residential areas are top priority.

Kate Renehan added that she is the contact person for any questions and concerns and gave her phone number 617.918.1491.

Tom Manuel asked when and if they will be testing the entire Crane River?

Peter Mirandi stated that they will continue to send out emails with updates on the progress and he thanked everyone for coming and thanked the EPA and DEP for their time and presentation.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

PERMITS AND LICENSING

Mr. Mirandi reported that since the last meeting 5 Food Establishment Permits have been issued, 12 Pool Permits and 1 Transport Sewage Permit has been issued and we have started Septage Haulers Permits. Mirandi stated that we brought in \$3,200 in permitting fees since the last meeting; he showed the report that was generated from the Full Circle Software. Mirandi added that Inspector Mark Carleo & Janell Powers have been working on the Full Circle Software and are getting it to do what we need it to do. Mirandi further reported that 12 Pools have been inspected so far and Sandy Beach water samples are favorable and the beach is now opened. The first sample passed, but the second and third sample did not due to the excessive rain.

PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH VIOLATIONS/NUISANCE INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. Mirandi stated that there were 9 complaints reported; 4 complaints are pending from the previous month.

Hi-lighted cases include the following: 25 Conant Street – This property has lead paint and there are children under six years old there. The daughter lives in California and doesn't seem to be doing anything about it.

This was filed in court today; 52 Centre Street – This property was condemned and now has squatters living there. Mirandi added that there are a couple other vacant dwellings in town and more and more banks are taking over properties. Puritan Road and Oak Street are still not occupied.

Days Inn – There was a meeting Tuesday, April 24, 2012 with the Building Inspector, and the Senior & Social Services Director. Mr. Mirandi wants to make sure that safety and sanitary conditions are being met. There are approximately 100 families living here and over 100 children in our Danvers Schools. Mirandi stated that this was filed in housing court this morning because of outstanding sanitary codes. Inspector Mark Carleo has been inspecting regularly. They are cooperating, but, they need help to move this along. Mirandi will keep the board updated on the progress. Some of these tenants have lived there for over a year.

Mirandi added that the downtown Dunkin Donuts dumpster is finally up on legs.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES REPORT

Mr. Mirandi stated that he had met with Nurse Christina O'Shea. We are already preparing for the 2012 flu season. O'Shea does daily MAVEN surveillance and has 2 cases of TB. Mirandi stated that there was a High School Lacrosse Student that tested positive for pertussis and a suspect meningitis case of a kindergarten student was reported. Marian Myers worked closely with a state case worker on the meningitis and by 11 pm the test came back negative. Martha Swindell has been helping Nurse O'Shea with blood pressure clinics that continue to grow – 11 are new patients with a total of 71 regular patients. Ms. Swindell added that O'Shea has the office extremely organized and the emergency trailer is all stocked up and ready to go. Finally, Ms. Swindell stated that she is attending the Danvers Cares meeting with O'Shea.

EPIDEMIOLOGIST REPORT

Mr. Mirandi reported the following diseases: There were 11 diseases reported since the last meeting on April 19, 2012: 1 Influenza and 2 Salmonellosis cases.

MOSQUITO CONTROL

Mirandi is not sure what is going to happen with the mosquitos. Swindell went to a seminar and learned that the State lowered the threshold of on when to decide to spray. Mirandi stated they have a trap at Endicott Park and at the meadow and they can call the entomologist and they will meet with the town if necessary.

ANIMAL HEALTH

Mr. Mirandi reported that the number of cats in Strays in Need is up. Jean Marcotti and Mike Plunkett are working on a pit bull incident.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Mirandi stated that he attended a mandatory call-down drill. The episode was around a radiation leak at the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant. He was asked to call all the key people on his list. Wayne Marquis got the first call, with Neil Ouellette, Bob Lee and Christina O'Shea all included. The Town passed with full compliance.

TOBACCO CONTROL UPDATE

Mr. Mirandi reported that Joyce had accepted a job with the State Program. He also shared that the Community Cares will be bringing information forward on medical marijuana in September and asked to be put on the agenda. Mirandi will meet with her prior to this meeting.

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

The Board agreed to cancel the July and August meetings unless something important comes up.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Dr. Kellard motioned to adjourn. Ms. Swindell seconded. The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted for your approval,

Janell Powers
Board of Health Clerk