

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES – February 7, 2013
Danvers Town Hall, One Sylvan Street, Danvers, MA 01923

ADMINISTRATIVE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Edmund Kowalski, at the Danvers Senior Center at 7:00 P.M. with the reading of the public notice, posted by the Town Clerk. Also in attendance were: Martha Swindell, Member; Thomas McLaughlin, Member; Peter Mirandi, Director of Public Health, Janell Powers, Clerk. Bobby Gates from the Danvers Patch and Bill Bates from Representative Ted Speliotis' Office were also present.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Swindell moved to accept. Chairman Kowalski seconded. All were in favor.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Permits and Licensing

Mirandi stated that 25% of Food Permits have not been submitted and paid. Full Circle reports show that 49 have not renewed as of today. Mirandi hopes to have more data at the next meeting. Usually, at this point in time we are sending out fines. He will review this with Carleo.

Public & Environmental Health Violations/Nuisance Investigations Report

Mirandi stated that we have received 1 housing complaint and 3 pest control complaints. All complaints have been resolved.

January 6, 2013 Twin Oaks Nursing Home Report

Mirandi stated that most of the patients have been moved back into Twin Oaks. Kowalski stated that the Town and Mark Carleo did a fantastic job. Swindell stated that his documentation of events is very nicely written. Mirandi stated that there will be a meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, next week to discuss what could have been done better and the order of events.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Nurse's Report

Mirandi reported that O'Shea stated that the entire supply of flu vaccine had been used. Mirandi stated that 710 doses were administered this year compared to the 440 doses last year. O'Shea did have to turn some people away. We are expecting approximately \$11,136 for reimbursement.

Mirandi stated that blood pressure clinics continue at the Senior Center. O'Shea is routinely seeing 55 patients last month.

We are a preceptor to the Salem State University RN program. O'Shea reported that the intern has been very helpful this semester. We continue to recruit people who can help in a pinch or when the nurse is out.

Disease Control/Epidemiology Report

Mirandi provided the Board with a report from MAVEN. In sum, 10 diseases were reported for the month, 9 of which were influenza and 1 was salmonellosis; 61 diseases have been investigated since July 1, 2012.

Swindell stated that whooping cough has reared its head again. McLaughlin stated that Parapertussis is a milder case and it has always been underreported. There has been a new vaccine developed but reactions in children over 5 years old have been reported.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Mirandi gave the Board the newsletter from the Emergency Preparedness Coalition. They have \$1215.69 in emergency preparedness budget. The budget scale is based on population. Possible supplies that may be purchased include syringes or two-way radios.

SUN SAFETY

Mirandi stated that a training session was held at Latitude Fitness Center in Peabody. Inspectors from all eighteen (18) communities participating in this program were present for the training. Mirandi also reported that an inspection checklist for tanning facility inspections had been developed and is now in use across the 18 communities. Mirandi stated that the next step in the process is to review policies and determine if tighter restrictions, especially regarding age of tanning customers, may be in order. Talks of restricting tanning machines except under a doctor's order have been bantered. McLaughlin stated that there are few medical conditions that would prescribe tanning facilities and wondered if the Town could simply increase the fee for permitting tanning salons. Mirandi stated that the BOH can make reasonable regulations and reminded the Board that they had set the bar high for tobacco control. Discussion ensued. Dr. McLaughlin stated that there was a time that tanning booths were the source of infectious disease, due to inadequate cleaning between uses. The Board will continue to consider a reasonable approach to setting policy at future meetings.

ANIMAL & PEST CONTROL

Animal Health

Mirandi reported that we have a new Animal Control Officer, Jason Gentry. He is enrolled in the dog academy and starts in March. He has trained guard dogs and worked with police dogs.

The Dog Park continues to make progress in its fundraising attempts.

TOBACCO CONTROL UPDATE

Mirandi stated that they are getting messages routinely on medical marijuana. It is apparent that the regulations will come through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Tobacco Control Program but that is uncertain. Joyce Redford, the regional tobacco control coordinator, remains abreast with developments and shares them with us. Swindell cited a recent article from the Globe and continues to represent the Board at DanversCares. Mirandi asked if she had a particular goal for the Board's consideration. Swindell responded by stating that the Board of Selectmen will be extending any decisions out to 2014 and she is following that process closely. McLaughlin reminded members that marijuana is still against the law.

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

152 Endicott Street Update

Bill Bates from Ted Speliotis' office was present to give an update on the Days Inn homeless families. Representative Speliotis had contacted the interim secretary of Housing and Community Development. It was the intention of DHCD to not place any other families in this hotel due to the chronic environmental issues observed by BOH inspections. Mirandi reported that a consistent decline in the number of occupied rooms has been observed since the last meeting. In fact, all but 3 of the original affected 18 rooms are now empty and we are scheduled to return to court on the 27th of February. Swindell asked if we will still pursue the clean-up of all rooms. Mirandi state that the rooms were in violation of the sanitary code because they were being used as long-term dwelling units, not hotel rooms for transient visitors. It is believed that the long-term residents strain the facilities of the room, especially ventilation systems in the winter. Kowalski thanked Bates and Speliotis for the work they had done on this. Bates stated the new director stepped up to the plate on behalf of the representative.

NS Tech and Essex Aggie Report

Mirandi stated that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) will be conducting air quality testing at the schools and that a meeting is scheduled for later this week to share information with parents and school officials.

Other

Mirandi stated that he had received a letter from Dr. Block of the Swampscott Board of Health requesting support for a public health gun control intervention. McLaughlin agreed that like seatbelts and helmet laws, gun control was a public health issue. After further discussion, the Board decided to table action until a later date.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Ms. Swindell motioned to adjourn. Mr. Kowalski seconded. The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted for your approval,

Janell Powers
Board of Health Clerk