

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES – April 4, 2013
Danvers Town Hall, One Sylvan Street, Danvers, MA 01923

ADMINISTRATIVE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Edmund Kowalski, in the Town Manager’s Conference Room in Danvers Town Hall 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.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Swindell moved to accept. McLaughlin seconded. All were in favor.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Permits and Licensing

Mirandi stated that 207 food establishments have submitted applications, paid their fee and have been permitted. The fee total is \$32,750. A list of establishments generated by Full Circle technology was provided to the Board. There are 6 food trucks that have been permitted.

Public & Environmental Health Violations/Nuisance Investigations Report

Mirandi stated that we have received 2 Air Quality complaints, 2 housing complaints, 3 pest control complaints and 2 food safety complaints, totaling 9 complaints. One housing and 1 food safety are being addressed; all others have been closed.

Swindell asked about the vacant house that she reported. Mirandi stated that they are still working on the house at 54 Lindall St. This will probably end up going to housing court to get resolved.

Tobacco Control

Mirandi stated that we had a 100% compliance pass rate on the compliance check. The state sends an under-18 year old youth to 7 of the 42 tobacco vendors and with the intent to purchase products. There were no tickets issued.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Nurse’s Report

The Town has received the first reimbursement check on the flu shots, which came to \$2,798.78. Mirandi reported that O’Shea has seen 60 patients for BP Clinics. Swindell stated that the blood pressure clinics are increasing. O’Shea also sits on the Sun Safety Steering Committee and represents the BOH on the Community Cares committee with Ms. Swindell. She works on the TB cases is starting to get involved with our public health emergency preparedness planning. In fact, O’Shea participated in required emergency drills this and it went terrific. Swindell stated that O’Shea is doing an incredible job.

Disease Control/Epidemiology Report

Mirandi provided the Board with a detailed report from MAVEN and further stated that Marian Myers reported 10 diseases for February and March. There have been a total of 78 since July 1, 2012. There have been 4 more influenza cases since the last meeting. Myers is looking into strep pneumonia cases at a nursing home since they received 3 more cases. There were 10 foodborne illnesses in Danvers, and this is why we are so diligent on the food safety part and inspections of the restaurants in the Town of Danvers.

Emergency Preparedness

They have money to spend and are looking into a stipend for the nurse.

Sun Safety

Mirandi stated that the grant got funded for another year. They will be looking at policy on this again. McLaughlin would like to see us make it harder for the children to get a tan before the prom. He stated that you can make the owners of the tanning salons obtain certain educational requirements and/or charge higher permitting fees. Mirandi stated that the fees are really instituted for offsetting administrative help to keep the records in order. McLaughlin stated that tanning booths are causing disease. Ultra-violet light can also cause cataracts and affect the immune system. Over the past several years, Mirandi refused to permit the tanning salons. McLaughlin stated that a typical story is that of a 16 year old girl who needed a tan for the prom. He would like to make it very hard for them to succeed and would possibly consider a ban in Danvers.

ANIMAL HEALTH

Mirandi reported a case of a pit bull that ripped off the nose of a little dog. The pit bull was quarantined and released. The owner of the injured dog is crafting a petition to remove the dog from this neighborhood.

Mirandi reported that there are 4 outstanding cases of barking dogs and dogs off leash complaints. He stated that Marcotti, who is part-time too, is really overworked especially since we presently do not have an animal control officer.

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

152 Endicott Street Update

Mirandi stated that there are no families living in the rooms. They still have another day in court. The owner is changing the name of the Days Inn. Mirandi stated that after Ted Speliotis intervened, changes with the number of homeless residents decreased.

OTHER BUSINESS

Inter-Municipal Agreement

Mirandi stated that he attached this document and a memo from Town Council on this article. The money that we have will help pay for environmental health inspectors and a community health educator. To date, Salem, Swampscott and Lynn have signed on. Kowalski asked if there will be more work for staff. Mirandi reported that the planning meetings are about 1 ½ hour per month and he

believes that the workload is manageable. Mirandi stated it seems more prudent to stay involved and recommended that the Board vote to approve the District Incentive Grant for the Town Manager's signature. Kowalski asked for a motion to accept this recommendation. The Board moved and approved it unanimously.

Medical Marijuana Update

McLaughlin stated that we do not have the power to legalize things that are forbidden by the federal government. He further stated that as of this moment, it is a federal crime to possess medical marijuana. He added that we have much more effective medications. There are 1000s of compounds in marijuana and they might vary from garden to garden. Swindell stated that she has been following this very closely. When she worked at the Hunt Hospitals, cancer patients were given marinol. McLaughlin feels that drinking alcohol and smoking marijuana do the basic same thing. In the study that Swindell heard, chewing the medical marijuana gave better relief.

Mirandi would like to be able to offer an opinion to the Board of Selectmen if asked. Swindell said there are doctors already giving prescriptions. Dr. McLaughlin stated again that essentially the Federal Regulation has not changed and it doesn't matter what our opinion is. Kowalski does not feel that they can agree at this time. Mirandi stated that they will continue to discuss this matter.

Transfer Station

Mirandi stated that the Town landfill, now a transfer station, want to expand waste acceptance from 250 tons to 350 tons per day and expand operating hours an extra 1.25 hours per day and all day Saturday. The idea is to bring trash from other communities here before transporting it to the final destination. The first step is for the BOH to choose a hearing officer to mediate the permitting process. Middleton and Peabody BOH will be invited to these hearings. Covanta is our contracted service and is very confident that this is a reasonable modification. The Board brainstormed potential concerns, such as, requiring conditions to avoid a variety of nuisances, possible fees that could be assigned due to the affect additional truck traffic will have on our roads, the risk of increased toxic material being transported through Danvers, opportunity for improved recycling, and written plans to assure adequate oversight of the operation. Mirandi assured the Board that these concerns, and any others brought forth by the public, would be addressed during a public hearing.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Ms. Swindell motioned to adjourn. Mr. Kowalski seconded. The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted for your approval,

Janell Powers
Board of Health Clerk