

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES – June 6, 2013
Danvers Town Hall, One Sylvan Street, Danvers, MA 01923

ADMINISTRATIVE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Edmund Kowalski, at the Danvers Town Hall at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Manager's Conference Room 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 the meeting minutes of April 4, 2013. Dr. McLaughlin seconded. All were in favor.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND PEST CONTROL

Permits and Licensing

Mirandi stated that we have collected \$4575 in fees for all Board of Health permits. Carleo has done 11 out of 17 public pools that have applied thus far. Permitting is on schedule.

Public & Environmental Health Violations/Nuisance Investigations Report

Mirandi stated that we have received 15 complaints since the last time we met. Except for two (2) housing complaints, all have been rectified.

360 Andover Street Plumbing Code Variance

Mirandi introduced the architect for the 360 Andover St. housing project: Mr. Sharkey. Mr. Sharkey discussed his reasoning behind the application for a variance to the state plumbing code. For the two buildings under construction, there is parking for 184 cars, 48 of which will be underneath the residential units in an open carport. The plumbing code requires that floor drains be provided at these spaces. Mr. Sharkey explained that the Code considers this design to be a parking garage when he believes it to be a carport. Further, he added that by virtue of the Massachusetts state plumbing code, the floor drains have to go into a collection tank. Unfortunately the site is below grade and the surface water would have to be pumped. Mr. Sharkey stated that all that will be draining off of the cars that park underneath the residential units will be rain or snow melt. By law, they are providing all of the storm water management systems, but are requesting a variance of these floor drains. Mr. Kowalski asked about the drainage that is not in the covered parking areas. It goes to the catch basins, and is pumped into a system per the storm water management regulations. Mr. Kowalski asked if they could connect the drainage to these floor drains that are necessary by the plumbing code. Dr. McLaughlin asked where the Ipswich River is in connection with this. Mr. Mirandi showed them. Swindell asked about the parking units and if there is an overhang? Mr. Sharkey replied that they are draining everything to the low point on the north corner away from the river. Mrs. Swindell's concern is that there are still some pollutants in the drainage, any leftover pollutants may still go to the river and this is our drinking water. She believes that is why the plumbing code is the way it is. Dr. McLaughlin asked if these were single family units, would you be required to put these

floor drains per the plumbing code. Mr. Sharkey replied, no, if you have 6 or more units with parking below, that is when you have to provide these drains. Mr. Kowalski is concerned, the code was written for a reason but does not understand the rationale behind this requirement. Mr. Mirandi stated that the plumbing code is there for health and safety reasons plus the plumbing inspector has stated that there is no hardship. With that, he recommended that the Board deny the request. Ms. Swindell made a motion to take no action and to refer it to the Massachusetts State Plumbing Board. Dr. McLaughlin seconded. Mr. Kowalski was in favor and the motion carried.

152 Endicott Street update

Mr. Mirandi stated that Comfort Inn, formerly the Days Inn were in court on the 8th of May to see their complaint dismissed with prejudice, which means that if the homeless population returns and conditions remain the same, we will go directly back to Housing Court. The main reason the establishment is in compliance is because the census of homeless families went from 66 families down to 9 families. There are still some families staying there, they do not seem to be staying long term which is helping the problems that they were having. Further, all the vacant rooms are now under renovation, replacing windows and rugs, and improving the rooms in general. Mr. Mirandi stated that Ted Speliotis deserves recognition for assisting in the final resolution of this health hazard.

150 Hobart Street

Mr. Mirandi stated that 150 Hobart St has been abandoned and is currently boarded up. However,. Mirandi reported that complaints on the unsanitary condition of the property continue to be called in. Mrs. Swindell stated that there is trash on the curb and wondered if the Town could make improvements. Mirandi would consult with Town Counsel to assure that we were on legal grounds. Dr. McLaughlin asked if this measure would make the owner homeless. Mirandi reported that the bank had already begun legal action as a result of the default on the loan and we are trying to reach that bank. Dr. McLaughlin motioned to have the town intervene and remove the solid waste and collect the cost for doing that through a lien. Ms. Swindell seconded. Mr. Kowalski was in favor and the motion carried. Dr. McLaughlin would like to add the provision to see the Town help him to find a place to live.

Mosquito Control Best Management Plan

Mr. Mirandi stated that he continues to provide information to the Board on the status of the mosquito control surveillance program. He also recommended that the Board use restraint when deciding if adulticide spraying was requested because he feels that self-protection is the prudent course of action. Dr. McLaughlin added that the public could apply repellent with DEET. Mrs. Swindell stated that she is concerned about the swamp walk especially where they just built a bridge and tables. She asked if there is any plan for trapping mosquitos at the swamp walk? Mr. Mirandi would inquire. Dr. McLaughlin stated there have recently been mosquitoes in South Florida are carrying malaria. Mr. Kowalski stated that the Best Management Plan for 2013 showed the number of infected pools of mosquitoes had tripled from the 2012 data. Dr. McLaughlin stated that only 2 people have died from mosquito borne infections and that the insects become resistant to the chemicals. Mr. Mirandi added that at this time, the majority of service we receive from mosquito control is surveillance and applying larvaecide.

Sandy Beach

The testing has begun. The most recent test passed and we are open at this time. Mr. Mirandi explained that we test the water on a weekly basis.

Tobacco Control

Mr. Mirandi stated that there is no update to report.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Nurse's Report

Mr. Mirandi stated that much of the reimbursement for Medicare B will not be received because we missed a filing deadline by 3 days. The private companies already reimbursed us. Mr. Mirandi stated that we had a measles exposure that Nurse O'Shea was working on. There were students from Danvers High, Beverly High and St. John's Preparatory students taking a test and were exposed to an active case of measles. Nurse O'Shea did a fine job of coordinating information between all schools involved.

Disease Control/Epidemiology Report

Mr. Mirandi stated that the monthly report is very slim. Next month he will have the yearly report. Mrs. Myers only had a couple diseases since the last meeting. Mr. Mirandi will have more to report at the next meeting.

Emergency Preparedness

Mirandi stated that there is nothing to report at this time.

Sun Safety

Mr. Mirandi stated that a new bill banning persons under 18 from tanning booths but we may want to consider adopting a local Health Regulation similar in scope. Ms. Swindell stated that Paris Nails took out the tanning completely.

ANIMAL & PEST CONTROL

Animal Health

Mr. Mirandi reported 3 animal bites. One of the cases, a cat was abused and then adopted and the cat attacked the neighbor. Mirandi is meeting with Human Resources tomorrow morning regarding the need for an Animal Control Officer.

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

Danvers Transfer Station-Public Hearing

Mr. Mirandi stated that they need to hire a Public Hearing Officer. He provided to the Board in their information packets, a list of candidates along with the profile information that each candidate sent in. All fees will be paid by the applicant. Mr. McLaughlin stated that they do not have much knowledge of this. Ms. Swindell stated that she was very impressed with his presentation and

motioned to engage John Shea of Mackie, Shea and O'Brien, Counselors at Law as Public Hearing Officer for the Public Hearing on Covanta Energy Request for minor modification of Site Assignment at the Danvers Landfill and by adding with fees and all hearing costs to be paid for by the applicant, Covanta. Dr. McLaughlin seconded. Mr. Kowalski was in favor. All were in favor and the motion carried.

OTHER

District Incentive Grant (DIG Update)

Mr. Mirandi stated that Wayne Marquis signed this agreement before our last Board of Health meeting. Salem, Peabody, Lynn are also on board. They are getting closer to full consensus. As part of this grant, they will be hiring a community health educator and a health inspector. Mirandi stated that one objective is to promote smoke free public housing. Boston is already working on this.

Medical Marijuana

Ms. Swindell stated that guidelines for marijuana dispensing are in place. She has been following it as the Board of Health representative to Danvers Cares and is involved with setting of guidelines.

Essex Aggie/North Shore Tech update

Mirandi stated that in a report dated May 10, 2013, the Department of Public Health has contacted 2600 physicians with a survey. Once the surveys are returned, they will be evaluated to see if any apparent connection between students and the symptoms are revealed. Concurrent with this effort, DPH has conducted air quality testing in 5 of the 20 buildings on these campuses. The next update can be expected in July.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, Ms. Swindell motioned to adjourn. Mr. McLaughlin seconded. The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

The Board decided that there would be no meeting in July, since it falls on the 4th of July. The next meeting will be Thursday, August 1, 2013.

Respectfully submitted for your approval,

Janell Powers
Board of Health Clerk

Ms. Swindell moved to accept these meeting minutes of June 6, 2013 on August 1, 2013. Dr. McLaughlin seconded. All were in favor.