

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES – August 1, 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 June 6, 2013. Dr. McLaughlin seconded. All were in favor.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND PEST CONTROL

Beavers at Old Maple Street, Brentwood and Glendale Road

Before introducing Bob Lee, Danvers DPW Operations Director, Mr. Mirandi stated that this was only the second time that one of these permits had been issued. The first one was to 10 Valley Road approaching Connors Farm. At that time, the permit was issued to a resident who paid for the wildlife management services. Prior to that, the few cases brought to the Town’s attention were managed quickly by DPW. Next, Mr. Lee, Operations Director presented an update to the Board of Health on the process of acquiring a beaver trapping permit and the status of the permit at the site in question. Mr. Lee stated that Danvers is more urban than Pepperrell, Mr. Lee’s previous employer, where beaver trapping occurred routinely. It is a DEP violation to simply destroy a dam. If beavers are creating endangerment to public health or safety, a permit must be obtained from the Board of Health. The Conservation Commission is also involved before a dam is breached. On Route 62 by the Danvers Animal Hospital, a huge runoff from Route 95 along with the existing natural wetlands offers excellent beaver habitat. Earlier this summer, residents from Glendale Road requested relief from the flooding. When Mr. Lee got the call, he notified the board of health and conservation commission. Agents from the department promptly inspected the area to determine if property or safety is endangered. Based on their observations, a Board of Health permit was issued on July 22, 2013. The BOH permit is valid for 10 days; the Conservation Commission permit is good for 30 days. There have been 7 beavers caught as of today and Mr. Lee stated he will breach the dam over the weekend using hand tools, which is a part of the regulatory requirements. Mr. Lee stated that both sides of Maple Street were affected.

Permits and Licensing

Mr. Mirandi stated that \$3,550 in fees had been collected for all Board of Health permits since the June meeting.

Public & Environmental Health Violations/Nuisance Investigations Report

Mr. Mirandi stated that we had received 93 complaints for the entire Fiscal Year 2013. We have received 58 complaints since the last time we met June.

Data Entry Action Plan

Mr. Mirandi stated that with much assistance from staff members Mark Carleo and Janell Powers, Full Circle Software is finally working as originally envisioned. However, these staff are finding it difficult to maintain data entry tasks. Mirandi further stated that options to resolve this critical deficiency are being implemented at the departmental level. However, he requested that the Board consider taking a role in the checks and balances of progress during the current Fiscal Year 2014. Dr. McLaughlin motioned to approve the request; Mrs. Swindell seconded. The Board of Health will expect a quarterly evaluation.

150 Hobart Street

Mr. Mirandi stated that a private firm is mowing the lawn but the back yard is still a mess. Mr. Mirandi stated that this housing case will most likely end up in court. Mrs. Swindell asked if there was anyone living here. Mr. Mirandi stated as far as he knows, there is no one living there.

313 Maple Street

Mr. Mirandi stated that the owner 313 Maple Street is Carl Burgess/aka Steve Burgess. He has been notified that his dwelling is non-habitable. This was a referral from the Fire Department after the neighbors called for a wellness check. As an aside, animal control captured the pet cat.

54 Lindall Street

Mr. Mirandi stated that the owner of 54 Lindall Street, Mr. O'Connell received the first Order to Correct in March 2013. Mr. O'Connell responded stating that he would demo in the spring. No effort has been made, but he has been given him another 30 days. Mrs. Swindell stated that she feels like the roof is going to collapse.

Mosquito Control Best Management Plan

Mr. Mirandi continues to provide information to the Board as to the current status of the mosquito control surveillance efforts. He also stated that he has received calls from residents requesting to be sprayed and asked the Board for some guidance. Mr. Kowalski stated that he likes the barrier sprays, for example, a calculated application around the perimeter of the high school for the football games. Dr. McLaughlin stated that he doesn't remember the mosquitos being a problem at the football games and continued that Americans are terrible at evaluating risk and that residents need to be smart about outdoor activities, use repellent containing DEET, and wear long sleeves. Mrs. Swindell stated there were more Lyme disease cases than any other insect-borne disease requested she would like to see something on DCAT for self-protection and maybe barrier sprays at football fields. Dr. McLaughlin stated that the mosquitos will become more resistant, the more they spray. Mr. Kowalski added that a barrier spray might be a compromise between self-protection and the aerial spray.

Sandy Beach

Mr. Mirandi explained that we test the water on a weekly basis and the testing began in May. To date, we have sampled 10 times. Due to rain events, there were 2 times that testing exceeded the minimum standard. The most recent tests passed and the Beach remains open at this time. Mr. Kowalski asked if there were any geese problems at the Beach. Mr. Mirandi stated there were and that Atlantic Goose Control is still working on controlling them at this site.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Nurse's Report

Mr. Mirandi stated Nurse Christina O'Shea has been going with the Recreation Program to every outdoor activity. Someone fainted at the ball game, and a band-aid was needed at another game. Mr. Mirandi will have more to report on the nurse at the next meeting.

Disease Control/Epidemiology Report

Mr. Mirandi stated that the yearly report is in for FY2013 and there were 107 reportable diseases. Dr. McLaughin stated that influenza is very under reported.

Emergency Preparedness

Mr. Mirandi stated that Peabody is treating him with scorn about spraying. Peabody believes in spraying. Swampscott will not spray. In Danvers, we want to be as thoughtful as possible, Mr. Mirandi stated that they are trying to do what is best. Aerial spraying does not do anything.

Sun Safety

Mr. Mirandi told the Board that there is a 2013 Sun Safety Work Plan, it is enclosed in their packet. Ms. Ruth Price will be planning a meeting soon. Her goal is to have a single conference for all 17 communities so that she can better manage the policy piece and assure that all communities are on the same page.

Tobacco Control

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

ANIMAL CONTROL

Animal Health

Mr. Mirandi reported 2 dog bites since the last meeting. Mr. Mirandi stated that we are very close to contracting a new Animal Control Officer. The candidate has a college degree in wildlife management and is willing to go to training. She has been working with the Salem Animal Control Officer for almost a year.

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

Danvers Transfer Station

Mr. Mirandi reported that he is unaware if the public notice has been published as required by the pre-hearing order. The hearing is tentatively scheduled for September 5, 2013.

District Incentive Grant (DIG Update)

Mr. Mirandi stated that all communities have signed the inter-municipal agreement. The next step will be to hire a community health educator and a health inspector. Mirandi stated that one objective is to promote smoke free public housing. The Board agreed that this was a worthwhile objective and asked Mr. Mirandi to reach out to Cindy Dunn, Danvers Housing Authority.

OTHER

Plumbing Variance Request Letter

Mr. Mirandi stated that they sent Mr. Sharkey a letter stating no action on his request. Mr. Mirandi stated that he never heard back from them.

Essex Aggie/North Shore Tech update

Mr. Mirandi provided the Board with an indoor air quality report from the Mass Depart of Public Health. No outstanding issues with air quality were observed in the 5 buildings tested to date; there are a total of 20 buildings on both campuses.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The next meeting will be Thursday, September 5, 2013.

Respectfully submitted for your approval,

Janell Powers
Board of Health Clerk

The Board of Health motioned to approve these meeting minutes on September 5, 2013. Dr. McLaughlin moved to accept the meeting minutes of August 1, 2013 with one correction on page 2 correcting 113 Maple Street to 313 Maple Street. Mrs. Swindell seconded. All were in favor.