

**BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES – October 23, 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 6:28 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 – October 8, 2013**

Mrs. Swindell moved to accept. Mr. Kowalski seconded. All were in favor.

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

**Permits and Licensing**

Mr. Mirandi stated that we have collected \$720 in permit fees since the September meeting. Mrs. Swindell asked about what they do with applications for Funeral Directors? Mr. Mirandi replied that we license the funeral directors and issue burial permits for all who pass away in Danvers.

**Public & Environmental Health Violations/Nuisance Investigations Report**

Mr. Mirandi stated that we have received several complaints, they are being addressed. He added that the reporting on the permitting software is also being worked on since they are not correct at this time.

**PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES**

**Public Health Nurse’s Report**

Mr. Mirandi stated that we are almost out of flu vaccine; the clinics are going extremely well. Nurse O’Shea did a flu vaccine script on cable television and gave Mr. Mirandi a flu shot on TV to get the word out on flu shots.

**Disease Control/Epidemiology Report**

Mr. Mirandi stated that he will not give a full report on diseases at this time. He did mention that there were two giardia cases involving two (2) children who are back to school at the Riverside Elementary after returning from an extended trip to Afghanistan. He added that the mother is a health care provider. After a consult with the Mass Department of Public Health it was determined that because she doesn’t administer medications, no restrictions are required for the mother. The school nurse at Riverside Elementary has been notified.

**Emergency Preparedness**

Mr. Mirandi stated that Christina O’Shea and our regional Emergency Preparedness assistant are updating contact information for key personnel identified on our “call down” plan.

## **Sun Safety**

Mr. Mirandi stated that there will be a meeting with all 18 Communities before the end of the year. Mr. Mirandi will speak with Ruth Price as to when this will be happening. Dr. McLaughlin provided updated literature from the American Journal of Pediatrics that promotes banning children under the age of 18 years old from tanning beds.

## **Tobacco Control**

Mr. Mirandi stated that there were no updates at this time.

## **Medical Marijuana**

After a short discussion, Mr. Mirandi stated that there will be continued discussions on this issue among the Selectmen but as of now, the BOH remains in agreement that the State DPH regulations are adequate and no further regulatory intervention is required at this time. The Board agreed.

## **ANIMAL HEALTH**

Mr. Mirandi reported that recruiting an animal control officer has been very challenging yet the need for this person remains very evident. For example, since September, we have received 23 complaints requiring some level of service. Our budget provides for a part-time Animal Care Specialist, Jean Marcotti, who is responsible for providing staff support for Strays-In-Need, follows up on Animal Bites with orders to Quarantine, and manages most of the complaint calls. We also receive services from Reed Wilson, a man from Rowley with whom we contract on a fee-for-service basis. Reed responds to critical incidents like injured or distressed animals and picks-up animal carcasses from our public ways. However, the position of on-call animal control officer - someone to assist in enforcing the leash law and dog licensing issues – remains vacant. This is reported to the Board because it is a core function in the protection of public health and safety. Perhaps the critical element of this function will be considered during the upcoming budget season.

Mr. Mirandi further stated that the Veterans Affairs benefits are stressing the budget. Dr. McLaughlin asked for clarification. Mr. Mirandi explained that the Town has a mandate to provide financial assistance to eligible veterans. Reimbursement from the State goes back to the General Fund. In the meantime, line items within the budget shift. In order to save, Mr. Mirandi has ordered contracted food safety inspections to be conducted by staff and contracted goose control to be cut back. He feels that resources are being spread too thinly and his intent is to keep the Board informed as budget meetings for FY15 come up.

## **OUTSTANDING BUSINESS**

### **Conifer Hill Common Variance Request**

Attorney Nancy McCann was present with Sean Donnelly representing Cavanaugh Advisory Group.

They are requesting a variance from the garbage disposal regulation for all 90 units being constructed at what is to be known as Conifer Hills Commons. The Massachusetts Department of Housing and

Community Development (DHCD) established guidelines for affordable housing projects. Within these guidelines, it states that garbage disposals are not recommended because of the cost and the repair.

Nancy McCann stated that it is understood that the regulations are for the purpose of controlling rodents but the occupants do not take care of disposals and there is a constant call for repair and maintenance. For those reasons during the course of construction, they decided not to install them.

She further stated that they are installing low flow toilets, and high efficiency washing machines in the laundry areas and added that the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency provides tips for saving water and says to avoid using disposals.

Her third point is that they reviewed the plans that were originally submitted to the Town. Garbage disposals were not on the original plans nor did the town ask them to be put in. It was not until the Plumbing Inspector came for the final inspection before they were aware of the requirement.

Dr. McLaughlin asked for the provision to collect waste. Nancy McCann replied that there are dumpsters on site, and trash will be picked up not less than twice a week. There also is a contract in place for a pest control company to inspect at least once a month and more if necessary.

Mrs. Swindell stated that they have been through issues in town with dumpsters to the point where the neighbors were overrun with rodents. Nancy McCann stated that these are brand new and the enclosures will be brand new. Nancy McCann stated that Mr. Mirandi can come inspect the dumpsters at any time.

Nancy McCann stated that her last point was that she called Cindy Dunn, Director of the Housing Authority who runs Rand Circle and all other affordable housing developments. She asked if they have disposals at Rand Circle. Cindy replied that they do but it is a maintenance nightmare.

Mr. Kowalski stated that people are not going to empty their trash barrel until they are full. He feels that inside the home insect control is going to be a problem. Nancy McCann stated that the maintenance company will monitor it.

Dr. McLaughlin stated his concern is even if they put them in they are going to get backed up.

Mr. Mirandi stated that we have a regulation. Apparently, the people before us on the Board thought that this was necessary.

Mrs. Swindell stated it is a tough one. Mr. Kowalski said that it is a lesson learned. They are promising rodent control and pest control with updates.

Mrs. Swindell stated that they are starting to occupy units on November 1. She would like them put in our agenda for May for an update.

Mr. Kowalski motioned to issue the variance request for the 90 units and accept that they do not have disposals installed. Dr. McLaughlin seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

**Danvers Transfer Station**

The Board of Health Members signed the final decision. Mr. Mirandi stated that it will be stamped in with the Town Clerk tomorrow morning and will be mailed out.

**District Incentive Grant (DIG) Update**

Mr. Mirandi stated that an update will be provided at our next meeting.

**OTHER BUISNESS**

Mr. Mirandi stated that the Board should take under consideration the Board of Health regulations regarding disposals. Mr. Kowalski stated that they could hold off until the first inspection and see where they would like to go with this regulation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Mrs. Swindell motioned to adjourn. Mr. Kowalski seconded. All were in favor. The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Mirandi will let them know when the next meeting will be.

Respectfully submitted for your approval,

Janell Powers  
Board of Health Clerk