

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES – April 3, 2014
Danvers Town Hall, One Sylvan Street, Danvers, MA 01923

ADMINISTRATIVE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Martha Swindell, in the Town Manager's Conference Room at the Danvers Town Hall, One Sylvan Street, Danvers, Massachusetts 01923 with the reading of the public notice, posted by the Town Clerk. Also in attendance were: Edmund Kowalski, Member; Dr. McLaughlin, Member; Mark Carleo, Environmental Health Inspector; Janell Powers, Clerk. Absent was Peter Mirandi, Director of Health.

Approval of Minutes – March 6, 2014

Mr. Kowalski moved to accept the minutes of March 6th and Dr. McLaughlin seconded the motion. All were in favor.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Permits and Licensing

Mr. Carleo stated that there is currently no routine permitting at this time. Since the last meeting, we took in one application for tanning for Boston North on Prince Street and 2 food establishment permits. Mr. Carleo stated that pool permitting and Recreation Camps for Children will start in May.

Public & Environmental Health Violations/Nuisance Investigations Report

Mr. Carleo stated that we have received 11 complaints since the last meeting. One of which was a wastewater complaint, 2 of which were animal control, 2 were housing complaints, 1 pest control complaint, 4 food safety complaints and one complaint on solid waste. Mr. Carleo stated that all are being addressed. Mr. Carleo stated that housing issues are often not easy to resolve due to tenant/landlord disputes, court hearings and the often emotional situation that occurs.

OTHER BUISNESS

Request from Matthew Soares and Eli Rechdan for Variance from Body Art Regulation

Mr. Carleo re-introduced Matthew Soares and Eli Rechdan and stated that this is a continued hearing on a request for a variance from the Body Art Regulation. Mr. Carleo explained that they both have applied for body art practitioner licenses and are requesting a variance from the requirement for anatomy and physiology I and II. Matthew Soares thanked the Board for allowing them to come back and bring more information for their request. Matthew Soares provided a packet of information outlining their various education and experience and suggested that it is an acceptable substitute.

Mr. Kowalski asked why Soares did not complete the anatomy and physiology course. Soares replied that he is a single father and had to choose work instead of completing his schooling in order to provide for his children. Mr. Kowalski asked how and how frequently they will test for spores. Eli Rechdan stated that he tests once a week and the laboratory conducting the test will send reports directly to the BOH Office. Eli Rechdan added that he did 1,033 piercings last month in Saugus and they can call the Saugus Board of Health to confirm that there have been zero complaints.

Mrs. Swindell asked if they took any courses comparable to anatomy and physiology. Eli Rechdan replied that the Piercing Association gives anatomy and physiology as part of their training, with all the updates but not a full course. Eli Rechdan added that he is associated with APP, but is not a member. He attends every year but he is not allowed to be a member because he uses a piercing gun for ear lobes and APP doesn't allow that.

Dr. McLaughlin stated that giving this variance would be like grandfathering Eli Rechdan. Dr. McLaughlin stated that he agrees that anatomy is very important and recalled a patient who had received a navel piercing but with a hernia, this patient's intestines were pierced.

Eli Rechdon said that he is very strict and although our regulation currently prohibits piercing of more sensitive or dangerous areas there are other piercings beyond that which he will not allow in his shops such as eyelid piercing and piercing of pregnant women. Rechdon stressed that he understands the seriousness of infection stating that infections can be fatal.

Mrs. Swindell stated that she does not question the course because it is being taught by professor Jerry D. King from Northeastern University.

Mr. Kowalski added that he would like proof that Matthew Soares completes the course and brings a copy of the grades and certificate. Matthew Soares agreed to bring in a letter from the professor stating that he has completed both of the courses with his grades.

Dr. McLaughlin motioned to grant the variance request to Matthew Soares and Eli Rechdan with the stipulation that Matthew Soares completes his anatomy and physiology course and brings in a letter of completion from the professor by June 1, 2014. Mr. Kowalski seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Nurse's Report

Mr. Carleo stated that he did not have anything to report on this. Mrs. Swindell stated that she did want to mention that Epidemiologist Marian Myers has resigned and will be available as the on-call epidemiologist in an emergency situation. Mrs. Swindell stated that the Board of Health should recognize Marian Myers for the nearly ten (10) years of service to the Town of Danvers. Nurse Christina O'Shea will be stepping in for her until Mirandi can determine how best to proceed.

Disease Control/Epidemiology Report

Mr. Carleo stated that there was no information to report on the numbers of communicable diseases reported at this time.

Emergency Preparedness

Mr. Carleo stated that there was no information to report at this time.

Sun Safety

Mrs. Swindell stated that all of the Board members went to the wonderful Sun Safety presentation by Ruth Price earlier this week. The conclusion is that they would like to restrict 18 and under from indoor tanning.

Mr. Kowalski motioned to request that staff come up with a draft regulation to prohibit 18 and under indoor tanning for the June meeting. Dr. McLaughlin seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Tobacco Control

Swindell shared a recent article from the Boston Globe highlighting the possible dangers of nicotine liquids intended to be used with vaporizers. The article states that FDA is considering regulation of this, but has no current solution and is unsure how to approach this. The board briefly discussed whether local regulations could be implemented to remove these from sale. McLaughlin stated that nicotine is one of the most poisonous and addictive compounds known to man, and that in this liquid form poses an immediate hazard beyond that of tobacco due to the ability to consume large quantities of it without ill feelings preventing further consumption as the case with tobacco.

Carleo recommended that the board be careful in considering regulating this and reminded them that with sun safety we spent years getting up the learning curve and understanding the business and the health consequences before considering any new regulation. He suggested we do the same with these new nicotine containing products. He stated he would speak with Mirandi about this and see what kind of expert information can be provided so that the Board can make a better informed policy decision.

ANIMAL HEALTH

Leash Law Amendment

Mrs. Swindell stated that Ingrid Barry is not interested in following through with this right now. This really is a decision for Town Meeting not the Board of Health. Mr. Carleo stated that we will keep this on the agenda for now. He also added that the Selectmen did not put it on Tuesday's agenda but that does not mean it is a dead issue.

OTHER BUISNESS

Garbage Disposals Regulation

Carleo began by stating that since the Board issued a variance to the new Conifer Hill apartment complex which relieved them of the requirement to install garbage disposals, staff was left wondering if the requirement should even be left in place. Shortly after this variance was issued, state guidelines and regulations are starting to change. This includes a new composting requirement for food waste in commercial establishments. The guidelines from MWRA also address residential garbage disposals. Carleo provided the Board with a copy of these new guidelines and asked that this item remain on the agenda for future policy discussions. Carleo also shared with the board his personal experience living in Hamilton where solid waste regulation by the Town was very stringent. One barrel could be placed out for collection every other week, recycling weekly but they also began a program of curbside compost pick up. At first Carleo and many other residents were concerned that rubbish would be piling up due to the every other week pick-ups, but found that with the

available composting service, he was able to greatly reduce the amount of rubbish put out curbside. He believes that if the Town could institute a curbside composting service, it would benefit not just the environment, but the Town's budget as well as its gravity sewer lines.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Swindell thanked Mr. Carleo for being a part of the meeting and for all of the valuable information that he provided the Board with.

With no further business, Mr. Kowalski motioned to adjourn. Dr. McLaughlin seconded. All were in favor. The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Janell Powers
Board of Health Clerk