

CITY CLERK
GLOUCESTER, MA
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**CITY OF GLOUCESTER
Board of Health
Minutes of the Meeting
December 4, 2014
City Hall
Kyrouz Auditorium
Gloucester, MA 01930**

Board members present: Chairperson: Dr. Richard Sagall, Vice-Chairperson: Robert Harris, Frederick Cowan, and Claudia Schweitzer. Present from the Health Department: Public Health Director: Noreen Burke; Manager of Environmental Health: Max Schenk; and Erin Kirchner; Sanitarian. Absent: Joe Rosa

Chairperson Sagall welcomed the audience and mentioned that Cape Ann TV will be filming the meeting.

PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATION

There was no "Public Oral Communication".

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Cowan to approve the Gloucester Board of Health minutes of the meeting of November 6, 2014 as written. **Seconded** by Ms. Schweitzer. **CARRIED.**

OLD BUSINESS

KEEPING OF FOWL-

Chairperson Sagall thanked the public for their interest in the issue. He stated that the public involvement has raised and broadened awareness on the issues. He stated that they have improved their social media, they sent emails to residents that signed up to be on a committee at the last meeting and they are making sure items are on the Health Department website properly and in a timely manner. He stated that they are working with Cape Ann TV to inform the public of notification and they still post the all meetings in the City Clerk's office.

Chairperson Sagall read a statement from Board member, Joe Rosa: "The raising and keeping of chickens is not without health risk to the community, ranging from Salmonella to the potential of Avian influenza to attracting rodent pests. However, history has convinced us that these risks are low and no doubt vary from one part of Gloucester to another."

Chairperson Sagall stated that he has come to the conclusion that perhaps regulations are not the best way to go at this point but rather what they need to do is look at the complaint process. He stated that they started looking at the different types of issues that may arise from fowls. He stated that if there is a rodent issue then the Board of Health would deal with that issue, if there is a noise issue then the Building Department would deal with that issue, if there is an issue with animals being maltreated then the Animal Control Officer would deal with that.

Mr. Cowan stated that he does not feel there is a need for further regulation on the issue.

Ms. Schweitzer thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and stated that there are other ways to work on the complaints rather than drafting regulations. She stated that she is not in favor of regulations on the issue.

Mr. Harris stated that he is not in favor of regulations on the issue and stated that issues that arise can be

Chairperson Sagall stated that he would like input from the public as to whether they want to form a committee and whether the handout covers issues in an equitable way.

Carl McKay of 160 Washington Street appeared before the board. He stated that he appreciates all the effort put forth by the Board of Health.

Lara Lepionka of 9 Beacon Street appeared before the board. She stated that she is the director of Backyard Growers and that she is extremely pleased about the boards' decision. She offered the City and the Department of Public Health an educational program for current and future chicken owners.

Eleanor Gleason of Woodman Street appeared before the board. She stated that her biggest concern is she wants the right to farm and if they regulate chickens then they will start regulating cows, pigs, etc. She stated that it will destroy farming. She thanked the board and left a letter with board members.

Mary Ann Albert Boucher of 93 Mt. Pleasant Avenue appeared before the board. She stated that she does not have chickens and has never had chickens and was late to the meeting and was hoping to make it for the Public Oral Communication. She left a letter with board members regarding health issues of her granddaughter.

Kyle Silva of 42 Friend Street appeared before the board. He stated that he feels there should still be a committee.

Patrick Thomas of Trask Street appeared before the board. He thanked the board for their decision and stated that they should be thinking about producing more food in the City so citizens have enough to eat.

Chairperson Sagall polled the audience; only one resident felt the need for a committee and the majority of the audience did not feel that a committee was necessary. He stated that if people are interested in receiving any educational materials they can contact Max Schenk at the Health Department to be included on a mailing list.

FLOURIDATION IN COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY-

Ms. Burke reminded board members that the Cape Ann Fluoride Action Network has met the threshold for the conducting a public hearing on the matter of removing fluoride from the City's water supply. She stated that the hearing will be on December 16th at City Hall from 7 to 9 pm. She included two related articles for board members in their packets.

Chairperson Sagall stated that the Board of Health is not pro or anti fluoride, they are pro science and pro public health. He stated that in the document that the Fluoride Network distributed to City Council there is a statement that says that he stated that the board is "neither pro fluoridation or anti fluoridation" which is true but it is taken out of context because they did not include the next sentence which he stated that the board is pro science and pro public health. He urged the public to be careful when looking at statements on either side of the issue, for example there was an article in the Gloucester Daily Times newspaper that mentions two supreme court cases, but neither case was about fluoride they were both about forcing medication on people who did not want it, one was regarding a person in a vegetative state and the other case was about an individual in a psychotic state.

WORKING SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE BOARD, BRIEFING UPDATES –

Children's Dental Center Planning – *Ms. Burke* reported that the Children's Dental Center Planning is moving ahead. She stated that they are finalizing the write up from their first planning session which they will be

distributing to the Board of Health in January. *Ms. Schweitzer* thanked *Ms. Burke* for her efforts. *Mr. Cowan* asked *Ms. Burke* to send him a list of needed equipment for the Dental Center.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented by Noreen Burke and Max Schenk

HOARDING TASK FORCE- *Mr. Schenk* reported that at the last Hoarding Task Force meeting they discussed the need for better outreach in the community and providing information to residents that are not only dealing with hoarding themselves but also for family members and landlords. He stated that they developed three different Frequently Asked Questions sheets to address issues of hoarding for each group of people. He stated that the sheet is in draft form and will be presented for finalization at the next Hoarding Task Force meeting.

LAND DISPOSITION- *Mr. Schenk* reported that he attended a Land Disposition meeting. He stated that the Health Department is asked to attend these meetings when the city has land that might be sold. He stated that they recently looked at a property near Kondelin Road and one near Sadler Street. He stated that both proposals were denied at the time of the meeting.

STORMWATER PLANS- *Mr. Schenk* reported that the Health Department looks at storm water plans for developments. He stated that there is a property on 78 Thatcher Road, the old restaurant that is going to be developed into condominiums. He stated that the Health Department is involved in the planning process of the proposed stormwater plan.

STAFFING ISSUES- *Ms. Burke* stated that they have hired a consultant coordinator for the Emergency Preparedness grant. She stated that they have posted the Public Health Nurse position but have not have any candidates apply thus far. She stated that the Health Gloucester Collaborative position is also posted.

UNDERAGE DRINKING GRANT- *Ms. Burke* stated that they are working on the Underage Drinking Grant which is due January 9, 2015.

MASS IN MOTION- *Ms. Burke* invited board members to attend the launch of the Mass in Motion Cape Ann launch on December 9, 2014 from 1-3 at the Addison Gilbert Hospital.

STAFFING ISSUES- *Ms. Burke* stated that there Mr. Harris and Dr. Sagall are up for reappointments in January.

ARBORVIRUS FINAL SEASON UPDATE-

Ms. Burke stated that she will work on a memo for the Mayor as to where they stand with the Northeast Mosquito Control District.

TOBACCO REGULATIONS- *Ms. Burke* stated that the new tobacco regulations went into effect on December 1, 2014 without incident.

EBOLA- *Ms. Burke* stated that the Ebola hysteria has lessened and the recent case at Mass General was negative for Ebola and positive for Malaria.

FLU CLINICS- *Ms. Burke* stated that flu reimbursement continues to go well. She stated that *Ms. Burke* has been busy on the MAVEN system.

NEW BUSINESS

212 HESPERUS AVENUE (MAP 167, LOT 40) –

Owner - Hesperus Realty Trust, John & Joline Hentschel, trustees

Request for the following variances;

- *To situate a leaching field less than 20 – feet from habitable space (7.5 – feet provided)*
- *To situate a leaching field less than 10 – feet from a property line (7.5 – feet provided)*

Ms. Kirchner gave a brief over view of the variances that are being requested at 212 Hesperus Avenue.

Rick Clark, representative of the proposed plan appeared before the board on behalf of the owners. He gave a brief overview of the variances requested.

Mr. Cowan discussed the type of system that is proposed and the need for a grease trap in order to preserve the new system after it is installed. He asked *Mr. Clark* if the residents would be educated on the system. *Mr. Clark* responded that he will be giving the owner a brochure with maintenance instructions.

Ms. Kirchner stated that she is comfortable with the system and agrees that the residents should be educated.

MOTION by *Mr. Cowan* that the Gloucester Board of Health approve the variances requested for 212 Hesperus Avenue as written on the agenda of December 4, 2014. **Seconded** by *Ms. Schweitzer*.
CARRIED.

CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS

ABUTTER NOTIFICATION- *Mr. Cowan* stated that he has been thinking of the issue of not having abutters notified within the required time. He stated that there was a suggestion made to have proof of notification of abutters to be submitted to the Health Department at the same time the plans are submitted. *Mr. Schenk* stated that they can easily request that information at the time that plans are submitted. *Ms. Kirchner* stated that the only problem with that is if the plan is not approved immediately or rejected then people would be requesting copies of a plan that they might not have on hand yet.

ROSE BAKER SENIOR CENTER- *Mr. Cowan* stated that the roof at the Rose Baker Senior Center has been leaking and it was requested that the Health Department will be asked to test for mold in the building. *Mr. Schenk* stated that the Health Department does not have the equipment to test for mold but they do have a moisture meter that they can use to get a reading of the moisture levels in the walls.

LUPINE FIELD- *Mr. Cowan* stated that there was to be a stone barrier placed near Lupine Field at the bottom of the Reynard Street and Washington Street. *Mr. Schenk* responded that he will check into the barrier.

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETINGS- *Ms. Burke* stated that the next Board of Health Meeting will be on January 15th, 2015 since the first Thursday of January is a holiday.

MOTION by *Mr. Rosa* to adjourn.
Seconded by *Mr. Harris*. **CARRIED.**
MEETING ADJOURNED – 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BOBBI ORLANDO', written over a horizontal line.

Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RICHARD SAGALL', written over a horizontal line.

Richard Sagall, Chairperson