

CITY OF GLOUCESTER
Board of Health
Minutes of the Meeting
October 2, 2014
CATA Training Room
3 Pond Road
Gloucester, MA 01930

CITY CLERK
GLOUCESTER, MA
14 DEC -9 AM 9:29

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

PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATION

There was no "Public Oral Communication".

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Rosa to approve the Gloucester Board of Health minutes of the meeting of September 11, 2014 as written. **Seconded** by Mr. Harris. Ms. Schweitzer **Abstained**.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented by Noreen Burke and Max Schenk

Ms. Burke gave board members a copy of the Public Health Nurse's report.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE- *Ms. Burke* reported that Domestic Violence Awareness event will be October 6, 2014 at 12:30 at City Hall. She invited board members to attend.

FLU CLINICS- *Ms. Burke* gave board members an update of flu clinics. She stated that they had 400 people attend the first flu clinic last week. She stated that they had between 250-300 people at the flu clinic that took place this morning at the Addison Gilbert Hospital. She stated that the next flu clinic is October 9, 2014 from 3-5 at Bank Gloucester. She commended Mrs. Nicaastro for her support at the clinics. *Ms. Schweitzer* asked if seniors are getting a different dose than others. *Ms. Burke* responded that she will ask Ms. Cook to respond to that question.

SHINGLES VACCINE- *Ms. Burke* reported that the Shingles campaign continues and they still have a lot of residents inquiring about the vaccine. She stated that they administered 22 doses at the Health Department recently.

PDGLST CORP. DBA RICHDALÉ UPDATE- *Mr. Schenk* reported that they have sent a letter to the owner of Richdale's Variety regarding their tobacco violation. The letter stated that their tobacco products must be removed from shelves from October 6 through October 12.

ANCHOR WORKS- *Mr. Schenk* reported that the Health Department staff attended a meeting for the proposal of a new subdivision development. He stated that the Health Department's role will be more in terms of storm water runoff and hazardous waste issues.

BEAUPORT HOTEL- *Mr. Schenk* reported that the Health Department staff attended a meeting regarding hazardous waste, particulate monitoring, etc. of the Beaufort Hotel. He stated that they were also involved in the discussion of the proposed swimming pool which will be a stainless steel roof top pool.

HOARDING- *Mr. Schenk* reported that the Hoarding Task Force met recently. He stated that the next

initiative is to develop a brochure that they can give to residents when they are on site.

TRASH REGULATIONS- *Mr. Schenk* reported that they sent out a notification regarding changes to the trash regulations. He stated that the changes involved the time of the day that dumpsters could be emptied.

PERMITTING DATABASE- *Mr. Schenk* reported that they are moving forward with a new permitting database in the City. He stated that this will help tremendously with the permitting processes and organization.

STAFFING ISSUES- *Ms. Burke* stated that Joan Whitney is taking a 10-12 week medical leave and will be working from home on a limited basis. She reported that Karin Carroll's last day was last Friday. She stated that she accepted the position as the Prevention and Wellness Trust director in Lynn. She stated that she will be missed, as she was an asset to the department. She stated that Lianne Cook will resign on December 10, 2014. She stated that the position has been posted. She stated that Dianne Corliss, the Animal Control Inspector, will soon start as the Animal Control Officer. She stated that they would like to roll in the animal control functions such as rabies control, stable regulations, and fowl regulations.

GRANTS- *Ms. Burke* reported that they were successful with the Cape Ann Mass in Motion Grant. She stated that the Mass in Motion program encourages active living and healthy eating. She stated that the grant is \$1100,000 over 3 years. She stated that the program will work with Manchester, Essex, and Rockport. She stated that they still need to go before City Council for approval.

EVENTS- *Ms. Burke* reported that Commissioner Cheryl Bartlett is coming to Cruiseport in Gloucester on Tuesday, October 7, 2014 to convene an opiate abuse round table from 9-10:30. She invited all board members to attend. She invited board members to a session called Emergent Infections at the Manchester Essex Regional High School on Wednesday, November 5, 2015. She reminded board members that the Mass Association for Health Boards certificate training is coming up.

OLD BUSINESS

BOARD REVIEW PROPOSED REGULATION: "KEEPING OF FOWL"-

Mr. Schenk gave an overview of the changes to the proposed "Keeping Fowl" regulations.

Mr. Rosa stated that there are some formatting issues with the documents and the temperature of storing eggs seems to need a range since it seems impossible for residents to maintain a constant temperature.

Melissa Cox, of 13 Maplewood Avenue, appeared before the board in favor of the proposed regulations. She stated that it has become a nuisance in the City and she has received many complaints about the smell and the noise coming from the homes of residents who have chicken coops. She thanked the board and the Health Department for proposing these regulations.

Ms. Burke stated that they will send the proposed regulations to the Mayor's office and Dianne Corliss for review.

TOBACCO REGULATIONS-

Ms. Burke stated that all the new regulations are out and on the website. She stated that the effective date is December 1, 2014. She stated that any questions that the board receives from vendors can be directed to her or Mr. Schenk. She stated that they did share the regulations with the Licensing Board at Mr. Cowan's request.

ARBORVIRUS SEASON 2014-

Ms. Burke stated that she and Chairperson Sagall are working on a report to update the Mayor on arborvirus. She stated that they are looking at more community outreach. She stated that a number of communities are moving to more localized approaches, including pre-treatment of storm drains etc. She stated that another idea that Senator Tarr's office came up with is looking at a separate district altogether because of the service limitations that currently exist with the Northeast Mosquito Control District. She stated that there were three cases of West Nile Virus and no EEE reported this season.

FLOURIDATION OF COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY-

Chairperson Sagall read the following statement that was reviewed and agreed upon by all the board members.

The Gloucester Board of Health is neither pro-fluoride nor anti-fluoride. Rather, we are pro-public health and pro-science. We are a deliberative body that researches issues before making recommendations. We will not be making any recommendations on this topic tonight.

We want to review the original research papers and not what others say about the research. We accept the consensus of experts while realizing that expert opinion may change as new evidence becomes available.

Our decisions are based on the results of our research and deliberations. We recognize that science is not static and new evidence may lead to changes in the consensus. We are open to re-evaluating our positions and recommendations when new evidence warrants a re-evaluation.

With that said we will move on. Each speaker will be asked to give their name and address. We will limit speakers to residents of Gloucester or those who have pertinent special knowledge and expertise. All speakers will be limited 5 minutes. We ask that speakers don't repeat what other speakers have said.

Chairperson Sagall stated that there was a letter in today's Gloucester Daily Times that said one year ago the City of Austin, Texas passed a resolution calling for the posting of warnings on the City's website and neighborhood centers and notices were sent to Austin water utility customers. He stated that he went to the Austin city's website and there is a warning on their website, the warning titled "Fluoride in Drinking Water" states that water fluoridated at levels at optimal oral health as is used in Austin poses no known health risks in infants, however some children may develop enamel flourosis, a cosmetic condition where faint white markings or streaks may appear on the teeth. Flourosis may affect both baby teeth and permanent teeth while forming under the gums. The warning also states if you are worried about flourosis you can minimize your baby's exposure in many ways; breast feeding is the best source of nutrition for infants, if breast feeding is not possible you can minimize exposure by using ready to feed formula, you can also alternate using tap water and non-flouridated water for preparation or mix powdered or liquid concentrate with low fluoridated water most of the time, however if you only use non-flouridated water, such a purified, de-mineralized, de-ionized, or distilled with your baby's formula your baby's doctor may recommend fluoride supplements beginning at age 6 months.

Linda Wren of 50 Bennett Street appeared before the board in opposition of fluoridation of community water supply. She stated that many communities have been issuing fluoride warnings for infants to public water supply customers. She stated that there should be a balance of fluoridated water and another source of water. She stated that Massachusetts is entertaining a bill that towns and cities that fluoridate their water submit a notification to residents. She gave board members a copy of the New Hampshire Safe Drinking Water Act which informs and cautions residents of flourosis. She stated that she hopes Massachusetts follows suit and starts providing information to residents regarding flourosis.

Mike Foley of 376 Essex Avenue appeared before the board in opposition of fluoridation of community water supply. He read a letter that he wrote that outlined his concerns with fluoridated water for infants. He stated that beginning in 2012 New Hampshire sent notices to all residents regarding fluorosis in infants. He stated that the Cape Ann Fluoride Action Network is requesting that the Board take a proactive lead in making the public aware of this fluoridation risk in children by posting warnings on water quality reports and quarterly water bills.

Chairperson Sagall stated that he is concerned that the references that Mr. Foley cited are from 1994, 1999, and 2000. He stated that he went to the ADA website on September 26, 2014 and there is a question on the website that asks "If fluorosis occurs when teeth are developing is it ok to use fluoridated water to reconstitute infant formula?" The response on the ADA website states "Yes, it is safe to use fluoridated water to mix infant formula." "If your baby is primarily fed infant formula using fluoridated water might increase the chance of mild enamel fluorosis, but enamel fluorosis does not affect the health of your child or the health of your child's teeth. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to talk to their dentist about what is best for their child."

Chairperson Sagall asked Mr. Foley if he has checked on poison control statistics to find out how many serious cases of fluoride poisoning cases have been reported. *Mr. Foley* responded that he has not done that. *Chairperson Sagall* stated that just because there is a potential poison doesn't mean it has been used as a poison.

Mark Warhol of Harold Avenue appeared before the board in favor of fluoridation of community water supply. He stated that even if a baby ate the whole content of a tube of toothpaste it would have no effect at all with very minimal absorption. He stated that the CDC recommends using fluoridated water for infants.

Tracy Chiancola of 47 River Road appeared before the board in opposition of fluoridation of community water supply. She stated that in 2013 the Oral Care and Tooth Brushing Guidelines for Children recommended that fluoride intake from birth to six months is none. She stated that too much fluoride is not healthy for children. She urged the board to put a warning on the public water bills.

Chairperson Sagall stated that he spoke to Suzanne Eagan about what authority the board has in the area. He stated that they do not have the authority to issue any sort of a warning on fluorosis, the warning would have to come from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Chairperson Sagall stated that an assertion was made that many organizations have asked to be taken off the list that is on the ADA that support fluoridation of water. He stated that he spoke to someone at the ADA and Kidney Foundation and the reason the Kidney Foundation was asked to be taken off the list was because they did not want to take a position in the matter, not that they were against fluoridation of water. He stated that the Health League of Canada was also removed and that organization went out of business in the 1980's. He stated that other organizations that had their names removed have changed their names and the new names have been added.

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 have been working with Jill Marston. She stated that they had their first planning session on September 17th. She stated that they had a great turnout at the temple on Middle Street. She stated that Jesse Williams the grant writer and planner also attended the meeting. She stated that they discussed the structural, financial, organizational, issues as well as challenges and opportunities of the dental center. She stated that will meet again on October 15th. The board thanked Ms. Burke for her effort with the

Performance of Mandated Enforcement Services – *Mr. Schenk* stated that they will start looking at internal process audits to look at each of the functions of the Department. He stated that the new permitting database will be very beneficial to the Department. *Mr. Rosa* stated that the new permitting database will make a big difference but it is only the first step, there will be some enforcement issues that arise with the new system.

Local Public Health Accreditation Discussion – *Ms. Burke* stated that the accreditation is moving across the nation. She stated that they are planning on meeting to discuss accreditation; however they have some staffing issues that will take precedent over the accreditation discussion. She stated that the State Public Health Department is moving towards accreditation now.

13 CEDARWOOD ROAD- *Mr. Schenk* reported that *Ms. Kirchner* was supposed to attend Housing Court in September to provide the court with an update for 13 Cedarwood Road but that date was postponed until October 22nd, 2014 due to a medical issue of the property owner.

STYROFOAM CONTAINERS- *Ms. Burke* reported that board members may receive a call from *Darlene Tate* regarding banning Styrofoam containers in Gloucester. She gave board members a letter regarding the issue. She stated that other communities in Massachusetts have implemented a ban on these products.

NEW BUSINESS

CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETINGS- *Ms. Burke* stated that the next Board of Health Meeting will be on November 6th, 2014.

MOTION by *Mr. Rosa* to adjourn.
Seconded by *Mr. Harris*. **CARRIED.**
MEETING ADJOURNED – 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by:

Richard Sagall, Chairperson