

CITY OF GLOUCESTER
Board of Health
Minutes of the Meeting
December 3, 2015
City Hall Annex
3 Pond Road
Gloucester, MA 01930

CITY CLERK
GLOUCESTER, MA
16 JAN -8 AM 10:51

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 Public Health Nurse: Kelley Ries. Absent: Joe Rosa.

This meeting is being recorded by audio in accordance with State Open Meeting Law.

PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATION

There was no "Public Oral Communication".

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Harris to approve the Gloucester Board of Health minutes of the meeting of November 5th, 2015 as written. **Seconded** by Mr. Cowan. **CARRIED**. Ms. Schweitzer **abstained**.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no "New Business".

OLD BUSINESS

GREEN BAGSTERS- Mr. Schenk stated that the Health Department has received some complaints regarding the giant green dumpster bags that can be purchased at home improvement stores. He stated that residents are buying these bags and they do not realize there is a \$150.00 fee charged to remove the bags and they sit at homes for months. He stated that since the bags are over 50 gallons they are considered dumpsters and they require a permit to use if residents have them for more than 7 days. He stated that if they see the dumpster bags that have been at a property for more than one week, they will send a notice to the address informing the owner that they need a permit.

Chairperson Sagall stated that they received memos from the Building Inspector and the Board of Health regulations regarding dumpsters.

The board discussed that dumpsters are required to have some type of covering over them and how bagsters filled with building debris are not a health issue.

The board agreed to survey other communities to see how they handle bagsters and to use the Board of Health regulation, section 3b if there are any complaints.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented by Noreen Burke, Max Schenk, & Kelley Ries

NEEDLE DISPOSAL SITES- Ms. Ries stated that there are now three needle disposal sites in Gloucester: Addison Gilbert Hospital, the Police Department, and the North Shore Health Project. She stated that Sander Shultz is working on an exposure plan for the Police and Fire Departments and there is a needle exposure plan within that document. *Chairperson Sagall* stated that all City Department's should receive a copy of that plan when it is complete. He stated that there is a website with a national database of needle disposal sites; www.safeneedledisposal.com. Ms. Ries stated that in partnership with

the Police and Fire Department the Health Department is doing an informational campaign so residents are informed on what they should do when they find needles around the city. She stated that residents should call the Police Department's non-emergency line. She stated that she created informational flyers that have been distributed.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES- *Ms. Ries* reported that there have been four investigations this month, one Babesiosis, one Salmonella, one acute Hepatitis C, and one group A Strep. 64 reported cases of Lyme disease this year and she still gets Lyme reports every week.

FLU SEASON- *Ms. Ries* reported that the flu clinics have been very successful. She stated that 1900 people were vaccinated thus far which does include the schools. She stated that they have about 200 doses left and they can be given by appointment only at this time. She stated that she has had several conference calls with the Department of Agriculture and the State Veterinarian regarding Avian flu. She stated that there has not been any human transmission of Avian Flu here to date. *Mr. Cowan* requested that next year's flu clinic at the senior center be done ahead of the clinic at the senior housing residences. *Ms. Burke* stated that *Ms. Ries*, *Rosalie Nicastro*, and *Sunny Robinson* did a fantastic job with the flu season.

DIAPER DRIVE- *Ms. Ries* stated that she is holding a diaper drive to help raise awareness of the need for diapers for children. She stated that she is on the Post-partum Depression Task Force and that diapers can be dropped off at 3 Pond Road or at City Hall. She stated that the biggest needs are diaper sizes 3 and 4 and they will be donated to the Open Door.

SHINGLES VACCINE- *Ms. Ries* reported she has a wait list of about thirty individuals so she would like to provide the vaccine in January or February. She stated that she will confer with the Hamilton Public Nurse to find some funding for this expensive vaccine.

MPH- *Ms. Ries* reported that she is going back to school for her MPH. She stated that she will be on vacation the week of December 14th.

SUBURBAN WILDLIFE EDUCATIONAL LECTURE- *Mr. Schenk* stated that there will be a forum titled Suburban Wildlife Educational Lecture at City Hall on January 11, 2016 (snow date February 1, 2016) at 7 p.m. He stated that there will be many speakers including Police Chief Campanello, Mayor Romeo-Theken, representatives from Fisheries and Wildlife, and Environmental Police Officers. He stated that the forum will focus on coyotes and other animals that we live with on Cape Ann. *Mr. Cowan* stated that the Mayor has been concerned with children mistaking coyotes for dogs. School Superintendent is developing an educational/prevention program for children.

STAFFING- *Mr. Schenk* stated that there has been some staffing challenges in the Health Department and he has been taking on some extra duties including housing inspections and responding to housing complaints. He stated that he started working on the Annual report today. He stated that they had a second interview for the Title 5 Sanitarian position. *Ms. Burke* stated that *Mr. Schenk* has been working really hard with all the staffing issues that they have been dealing with.

GRANTS- *Ms. Burke* reported that they are still in the transition stage with public health emergency preparedness and the grant monies have all moved to a regional health and medical coalition model. She stated that they will move forward with three substance focus prevention grants: the Opioid Prevention Grant, the Underage Drinking Grant, and the Drug Free Communities Grant.

CHILDREN'S DENTAL CENTER- *Ms. Burke* stated that the joint lunch with the Children's Dental Center and the Health Center was cancelled and they hope to reschedule.

FLUORIDATION- Chairperson Sagall stated that he sent an email to the City Councilors inviting them to a Board of Health meeting and asked if they had any questions regarding fluoridation. He stated that no one had any need to come to a meeting.

MOSQUITO CONTROL- Ms. Burke stated that she sent some questions to Amory Thorndike, the Director of the Vector Disease Control International regarding surveillance services for mosquito control. She stated that when she receives answers to those questions she will forward them to board members.

NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAM- Ms. Burke stated that Susan Gould Coviello, the Director of the North Shore Health Project, would like to come to the January Board of Health meeting to speak to the board about a needle exchange program in Gloucester. Ms. Ries stated that there are about 15 components to a harm reduction/needle exchange program approved by MDPH including health care and education.

STUDENT HEALTH SURVEY- Ms. Burke stated that the results of the Student Health Survey are out and there was an article in the newspaper regarding the results. She stated that Gloucester is not unique and they have similar results of other communities. She stated that drug and alcohol use continue to decline.

RESIGNATION- Ms. Burke stated that she is negotiating the terms of her resignation and she hopes to have everything finalized by next week.

CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS

HEALTH DIRECTOR- Ms. Schweitzer stated that appreciated all that she has done for the Health Department and the City of Gloucester.

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETINGS- Chairperson Sagall stated that the next Board of Health Meeting will be on January 7, 2016.

MOTION by Mr. Harris to adjourn.
Seconded by Mr. Cowan. **CARRIED.**
MEETING ADJOURNED – 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by:



Richard Sagall, Chairperson

Documents Referenced:
December 3rd, 2015 Board of Health Agenda
November 5th, 2015 Board of Health Minutes
Board of Health Dumpster Regulation
Monthly Reports



CITY OF GLOUCESTER

Health Department

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Memo

To: William Sanborn, Building Inspector

From: Dr. Richard Sagall, Chair, Gloucester Board of Health

Date: January 7, 2016

Subject: Building Department memo of requesting the Board of Health to consider banning the use of “Bagster” and similar type dumpster alternative containers.

Dear Bill:

At its meetings of December 3, 2015 and January 7, 2016, the Board of Health deliberated on the above request of your department. As part of its process, the Board reviewed current regulations under our jurisdiction and consulted with colleagues in other communities.

The Gloucester Board of Health regulation “*Use and Licensing of Trash Dumpsters*” provides criteria for the definition of a dumpster (section 1(A)), as well as when a dumpster must be licensed for use by the Health Department and guidelines for their care and cleanliness (sections 3 and 4, inclusive).

Bagsters and other, similar disposal devices meet the definition of a dumpster under the Gloucester regulation and therefore are subject to its requirements. It is the Board’s determination that this applicability to an existing regulation provides sufficient authority to the Department to address any current permitting and enforcement concerns. Any dumpster device located on a property for more than seven-days must receive a permit from the Health Department. Failure to meet any of the requirements of the dumpster regulation will result in enforcement actions being taken. Please forward any complaints received by your office regarding dumpsters to the Health Department and they will be investigated accordingly.

Let me know if you have any further questions and please accept the Board’s appreciation for your pro-active approach to this matter.

Respectfully,


Dr. Richard Sagall

Cc: File



CITY OF GLOUCESTER

Health Department

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Public Health
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January 7, 2016

Association of Food and Drug Officials
2550 Kingston Road
Suite 311
York PA 17402

RE: Proposed Adoption of the 2013 Federal Food Code as a Gloucester Board of Health Regulation


To Whom It May Concern:

The Gloucester Board of Health and Health Department, in partnership with the local health departments of the North Shore and Cape Ann, will deliberate in the coming months on the proposal to adopt the 2013 Federal Food Code as the standard under which our local food safety program operates.

It is our expectation that the Board's decision would occur no later than December 01, 2016. This will allow for proper due-process and sufficient time to educate our staff and retail food businesses about the benefits of the revised standards.

Please let me know if you have any further questions and my appreciation for your work on this initiative.

Sincerely,


Dr. Richard Sagall, M.D.
Chairperson
Gloucester Board of Health