

**CITY OF GLOUCESTER
Board of Health
Minutes of the Meeting
January 15, 2015
City Hall Annex
3 Pond Road
Gloucester, MA 01930**

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; Manager of Environmental Health: Max Schenk; and Erin Kirchner; Sanitarian. Absent: Frederick Cowan

PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATION

Rosalie Nicastro stated that she is back full time after being out for a few weeks with an illness. She thanked board members for their cards.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Ms. Schweitzer to approve the Gloucester Board of Health minutes of the meeting of December 4, 2014 as written. **Seconded** by Mr. Harris. **CARRIED**. Mr. Rosa **abstained**.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented by Noreen Burke and Max Schenk

ANNUAL REPORT - *Mr. Schenk* gave board members a copy of the Annual Report. He stated that they have updated some data. He stated that they need to update the budget and some program information before it is complete.

TOBACCO VIOLATIONS- *Mr. Schenk* reported that there were three tobacco violations in the City. He stated that two were first offenders and one was a second violation. He stated that Tedeschi's and Railroad Variety were the two with the first violations and the gas station on the corner of Washington Street and Prospect Street had their second violation.

WORKPLACE VIOLENCE RESPONSE PLAN- *Mr. Schenk* reported that the Department of Public Health requires that all workplaces develop a Workplace Violence Response Plan. He stated that he is discussing the plan with other City departments to collaborate and the plan is due to the State by February 15, 2015.

HOARDING TASK FORCE- *Mr. Schenk* reported that he attended a Hoarding Task Force meeting, along with Ms. Schweitzer. He stated that they have made great progress and now have three different handouts available for residents. He stated that they will be assisting the Fire Chief on a presentation for firefighters. *Ms. Schweitzer* stated that the handouts they created are great and the meetings are excellent. *Mr. Rosa* stated that it is a great initiative to get the Fire Department educated.

CITY VEHICLES- *Mr. Schenk* reported that the Health Department has been in need of new vehicles and Community Development has been working with an automotive company to obtain new vehicles. He stated that the Health Department will receive three electric vehicles at a reduced cost through grants and other funds; however the remaining cost will come out of the Health Department's budget.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES- *Ms. Burke* reported that there were 16 confirmed influenza cases from November 1st, 2014 through January 14th, 2015. She reported that there was one case of Hepatitis B, one case of

Campylobacter, one case of Hepatitis A, one case of Streptococcus Pneumonia, one case of invasive Group A Streptococcus, and two cases of Salmonella reported on the MAVEN system.

SHINGLES VACCINE- *Ms. Burke* reported that despite five months of promoting low cost, subsidized Shingles vaccine, fifty people inquired and thirty vaccines were provided of which seven paid the \$85 co-pay, three were eligible for the MERCK assistance program and received the vaccine paid for by the company, twenty people had insurance that the Health Department billed, the remaining twenty people of the fifty were counseled and vaccines were received elsewhere based on insurance coverage. Due to the short shelf life of the vaccine due to expire in February of 2015, a free clinic was offered and all 100 appointments were booked in less than two weeks. The clinic will be on January 20th, 2015.

STAFFING ISSUES- *Ms. Burke* reported that Kate Kokko has been training as the Emergency Public Health Preparedness Coordinator. She stated that Joan Whitney has been out on medical leave since December and she will be back in the next few weeks. She stated that they have received eleven resumes for the HGC Coordinator position. She stated that they are leasing space at the Gloucester Community Health Center for the Substance Abuse Prevention staff. She stated that they had four candidates for the Public Health Nurse and three candidates backed out before the interview process. She is hoping to re-open the position again soon.

MASS IN MOTION- *Ms. Burke* reported that they had a successful launch of the Mass in Motion Cape Ann grant. She stated that she would like an ambassador from the board to participate in the next planning meeting in March.

REAPPOINTMENTS- *Ms. Burke* reported that Mr. Harris and Dr. Sagall will have reappointments this year.

GRANTS- *Ms. Burke* reported that she is presently working on the Underage Drinking grant and the Drug Free Communities grant. She stated that the Health Department consultants, grant writer Jessie Williams and Caitlin Kreitman has been very helpful in writing the grants.

IT DIRECTOR- *Ms. Burke* reported that she can't say enough good things about James Pope the IT Director. She stated that he is pushing ahead with the permitting database and phone enhancement long overdue systems changes

REGIONALIZATION- *Ms. Burke* reported that we are still looking at and interested in regionalization. She stated that our Children's Dental Center is another example of a regional initiative we are the lead on. The Dental Center sees some children from other surrounding communities not just Gloucester.

OLD BUSINESS

FLOURIDATION IN COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY-

Ms. Burke stated that the proposal before City Council which was voted in the majority has not yet come up before the Ordinance and Administration Subcommittee of City Council. The proposal being, allowing non-binding questions on the voting ballots to ask the community whether or not they wish to remove Fluoride from the Community Water Supply.

She stated that Chairperson Sagall and she are still pursuing the Massachusetts Department of Public Health on getting an education campaign for fluoridation of the community water supply. *Chairperson Sagall* stated that he does not believe that public health is something that should be voted on by the public. She thanked board members for their time on the issue.

KEEPING OF FOWL-

Mr. Schenk stated that there was one woman that came forward and stated that she had issues in her neighborhood with roosters crowing at all hours. He stated that the resident was going to contact the Animal Control Officer for further investigation. *Mr. Rosa* stated that the city still does not have a coherent method to handling complaints.

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 *Jessie Williams* is working on a report to present to the board.

Performance of Mandated Enforcement Services – *Mr. Schenk* stated that they are continuing to move forward with the Performance of Mandated Enforcement Services Subcommittee. He stated that they are waiting for the new database system to be implemented and they are looking into purchasing a scanner.

Local Public Health Accreditation Discussion – *Ms. Burke* stated that Accreditation of Local Health Departments is moving across the nation. She stated that they are planning on meeting to discuss accreditation; however the current staffing issues especially hiring a Public Health Nurse will have to take precedence over the accreditation discussion. She stated that the State Public Health Department is also slowing moving towards Accreditation as well

NEW BUSINESS

3 TORONTO AVENUE (MAP 136, LOT 54) –

Property owned by Janet Herman – represented by Dan Ottenheimer, Mill River Consulting

Request for variances from local regulations, including siting a leachfield less than 56' from a wetland buffer zone.

Ms. Kirchner gave a brief over view of the variances that are being requested at 3 Toronto Avenue. She stated that the setback is 56', not less than 56'

Mr. Rosa recused himself from the agenda item, since he is a resident of Eastern Point.

Dan Ottenheimer, of Mill River Consulting appeared before the board on behalf of the owners. He gave a brief overview of the variances requested.

Ms. Kirchner stated that she is comfortable with the system. She stated that the board has received requests from abutters to postpone request for variances until the next meeting. She stated that the abutters were notified on December 23, 2014 of the plan.

Mr. Harris stated that the Septic Review Subcommittee meeting does not have any issues with the plan.

Chairperson Sagall asked if there was anyone in the audience that would like to speak for or against the proposed variance.

Peter Hoffman 780 Boylston Street in Boston appeared before the board in favor of the proposed variances. He stated that Mrs. Herman is very ill and the family would like to get the property ready to sell. He stated that the abutters had access to the plan since December and urged the board to vote on the plan.

David Reardon of 7 Gardner Terrace appeared before the board in opposition of the proposed variances.

He stated that the abutters would like time to review the plan and a few weeks should not be detrimental to Mrs. Herman.

Ms Schweitzer stated that she does not see the harm in waiting a couple weeks to vote on the plan. *Chairperson Sagall* stated that he agrees with Ms. Schweitzer. *Mr. Harris* stated that he does think that the abutters had adequate time to review the plan and he believes they should vote on the plan.

Mr. Ottenheimer stated that the Health Department only requires a ten day notification to abutters and they gave the abutters a 25 day notification. He stated that they sent it out on the 22nd of December and it was signed for on the next day.

MOTION by Ms. Schweitzer that the Gloucester Board of Health continues the hearing for 3 Toronto Avenue as written on the agenda of January 15, 2015 to provide review of the plan to abutters. **Seconded** by Dr. Sagall. **CARRIED.** Mr. Harris – **opposed.** Mr. Rosa - **abstained.**

45 CRAFTS ROAD (MAP 233, LOT 18) –

Property owned by Kristen Payne – represented by John Judd, Gateway Consultants

Proposed tight tank as remediation for failed septic system

Ms. Kirchner gave a brief over view of the request for a tight tank at 45 Crafts Road.

John Judd, of Gateway Consultants appeared before the board on behalf of the owners. He gave a brief overview of the request for a tight tank.

Ms. Kirchner stated that she is comfortable with the system.

Chairperson Sagall asked if there was anyone in the audience that would like to speak for or against the proposed variance. There was no one.

MOTION by Mr. Harris that the Gloucester Board of Health approves the variances requested for 45 Crafts Road as written on the agenda of January 15, 2015. **Seconded** by Ms. Schweitzer. **CARRIED.**

84 CAUSEWAY STREET – LOBSTA LAND RESTAURANT (MAP 233, LOTS 47 & 53) –

Property owned by the Trio Building, Inc – represented by John Judd, Gateway Consultants

Request for variances from state and local regulations, including siting a leachfield 5' from a street line; allowing a 25% reduction in required disposal area requirements; to allow tank pipe inverts to be below ESHWT; and to allow for septic components to be situated off the subject property

John Judd, of Gateway Consultants appeared before the board on behalf of the owner. He gave a brief overview of the variances requested. He stated that the owner has purchased a lot on the same road as the restaurant and there proposed plan, using this lot is a much better alternative to the previous plan.

Ms. Kirchner stated that she has no issues with the proposed plan.

Mr. Rosa stated that he is impressed with the owner's innovative solution. He stated that the restaurant cannot open until the issue is resolved as voted on by the board previously.

Corey Grammas appeared before the board. He stated that all parties involved are aware that he wants the system installed by April 16th, 2015. He stated that they are doing everything they can to get the

system installed by the opening of the restaurant.

Chairperson Sagall asked if there was anyone in the audience that would like to speak for or against the proposed variance. There was no one.

Mr. Rosa stated that this plan is the best plan for everyone. He stated that the board should advocate getting this plan moved forward. *Mr. Schenk* stated that he would look into moving the project forward with the City.

MOTION by *Mr. Rosa* that the Gloucester Board of Health approves the variances requested for 84 Causeway Street as written on the agenda of January 15, 2015. **Seconded** by *Ms. Schweitzer*.
CARRIED.

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

MOTION by *Ms. Schweitzer* that the Gloucester Board of Health nominates *Rich Sagall* as Chairperson for the Gloucester Board of Health. **Seconded** by *Mr. Rosa*. **CARRIED.**

Claudia Schweitzer for *Rich Sagall*
Rob Harris for *Rich Sagall*
Joe Rosa for *Rich Sagall*
Rich Sagall for *Rich Sagall*

Chairperson Sagall accepted the nomination as Chairperson for the Gloucester Board of Health.

MOTION by *Mr. Rosa* that the Gloucester Board of Health nominates *Rob Harris* as Vice-Chairperson for the Gloucester Board of Health. **Seconded** by *Ms. Schweitzer*. **CARRIED.**

Claudia Schweitzer for *Rob Harris*
Rob Harris for *Rob Harris*
Joe Rosa for *Rob Harris*
Rich Sagall for *Rob Harris*

Rob Harris accepted the nomination as Vice-Chairperson for the Gloucester Board of Health.

CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS

BOARD OF HEALTH AGENDA- *Chairperson Sagall* proposed that they change the order of business so that they can accommodate people speaking on the agenda. The board agreed.

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETINGS- *Ms. Burke* stated that the next Board of Health Meeting will be on February 5th, 2015.

MOTION by *Mr. Rosa* to adjourn.
Seconded by *Mr. Harris*. **CARRIED.**
MEETING ADJOURNED – 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Bobbi Oriando

Accepted by:

Richard Sagall, Chairperson