

CITY OF GLOUCESTER
Board of Health
Minutes of the Meeting
November 5, 2015
City Hall Annex
3 Pond Road
Gloucester, MA 01930

CITY CLERK
GLOUCESTER, MA
15 DEC -8 AM 11:08

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

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. Rosa to approve the Gloucester Board of Health minutes of the meeting of September 10th, 2015 as written. **Seconded** by Mr. Cowan. **CARRIED.**

MOTION by Dr. Sagall to approve the Gloucester Board of Health minutes of the meeting of October 1st, 2015 as written. **Seconded** by Mr. Cowan. **CARRIED.**

MOTION by Mr. Cowan to approve the Gloucester Board of Health Septic Review Subcommittee minutes of the meeting of September 15th, 2015 as written. **Seconded** by Mr. Rosa. **CARRIED.**

NEW BUSINESS

77 EASTERN POINT BOULEVARD (MAP 136/LOTS 9)-

Property owned by Martinonis Realty Trust (Arunas Martinonis, Trustee)
Represented by Mill River Consulting

Local Upgrade Approvals:

- *To reduce the required setback from the soil absorption system to the cellar wall from 20' to 13' (310 CMR 15.405(1)(b)).*
- *To reduce the required setback from the soil absorption system to a coastal bank from 50' to 46' (310 CMR 15.405(1)(f)).*
- *To perform a sieve test in lieu of a percolation test (310 CMR 15.405(1)(i)).*

Gloucester Board of Health Variances:

- *To reduce the required setback from the soil absorption system to habitable space from 20' to 13' (GBOH Section 2.1).*
- *To reduce the required setback from the soil absorption system to a coastal resource area from 200' to 46' (GBOH Section 2.1).*

Title 5 Variance:

- *To reduce the required depth of naturally occurring soil beneath leach field from 4' to 1.17' (310 CMR 15.240 (1)).*

Isaac Rowe, of Mill River Consulting appeared before the board on behalf of the owner. Mr. Rowe gave a brief overview of the potential variances for 77 Eastern Point Boulevard. He discussed the new Busse Technology system that replaces the tight tank that is currently on the property. System's treatment

components are to be above ground and located within the basement.

Mr. Schenk stated that this technology opens up a whole new realm of opportunities for residents whose only option in the past was to install a tight tank.

Arunas Martinonis of 77 Eastern Point Boulevard appeared before the board. He stated that he is excited about the proposed plan.

MOTION by Mr. Harris to grant request the variances requested for 77 Eastern Point Boulevard as outlined on the agenda of November 5, 2015. **Seconded** by Mr. Cowan. **CARRIED.**

OLD BUSINESS

FLUORIDATION IN COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY-

Chairperson Sagall stated that the election results were 65% in favor of fluoridation in the community water supply. He thanked board members for their hard work on the issue. He stated that he would like to send all the new City Councilors an email congratulating them and inviting them to a Board of Health meeting. The board agreed that that is a good idea.

ARBOVIRUS END OF SEASON UPDATES-

Ms. Burke stated that Massachusetts experienced a hard frost on October 17, 2015 which ended the risk for mosquito borne illnesses for the season. She stated that there were nine cases of West Nile in Massachusetts this year and no human cases of EEE. She stated that the state is also drawing attention to Chikungunya and there was one case reported in Essex County (travel acquired). She stated that an organization called Vector Disease Control International (VDCI) has been in contact with her to offer mosquito monitoring and surveillance for under \$80,000. She stated that they operate in twenty states around the country. She read a letter from Dr. Katie Brown from DPH that stated that VDCI does not have the proper equipment to test for EEE and their tests results have many false positives. The board asked Ms. Burke to ask VDCI for clarification to the issues brought up by Dr. Brown and for some references.

TOBACCO AND ECIG SALES- *Ms. Burke* stated that Attorney General, Maura Healey updated the regulations for tobacco and ecig sales. She stated that on September 25, 2015 it will be illegal to sell ecigarettes to anyone under the age of 18 and beginning on March 15, 2016 it will be illegal to sell liquid nicotine that is not contained in a child resistant package. The board agreed to invite Joyce Redford to discuss raising the purchase age of tobacco products.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented by Noreen Burke and Max Schenk

337 CONCORD STREET- *Mr. Schenk* stated that there is new construction occurring at 337 Concord Street. He stated that there is a cease and desist order on the construction site because there have been many trees cleared from the ACEC area on the property and that was not part of the approved plan.

HARBOR VILLAGE- *Mr. Schenk* stated that the Health Department will be involved in the new residential development, Harbor Village, at the old Cameron's restaurant site. He stated that the Health Department's role will be to ensure that proper safety measures are in place during the demolition phase, dumpster licenses, meeting sanitary code, and they must have a pest control plan in place.

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. He stated that if they see the dumpster bags they will send a notice to the address informing the owner that they need a permit. *Chairperson Sagall* stated that they need to look into uniform enforcement.

NEEDLE DISPOSAL ISSUES- *Ms. Burke* 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.

NEEDLE DISPOSAL SITES- *Ms. Burke* 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 the city is working on a needle exposure plan. She stated that all City employees that are at risk of needle exposure should have a Hepatitis B vaccine. *Chairperson Sagall* stated that there is a website with a national database of needle disposal sites; www.safeneedledisposal.com *Ms. Burke* stated that residents who have needles at home should bring them in a needle resistant container for disposal in one of the kiosks.

NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAM- *Ms. Burke* stated that there has been some discussion with the North Shore Health Project regarding a needle exchange program.

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 prevention grants: the Opioid Prevention Grant, the Underage Drinking Grant, and the Drug Free Communities Grant.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES- *Ms. Burke* reported that there have been 58 reported cases of Lyme disease this year; 47 are suspect, 4 are probable, and 7 have been confirmed.

FLU SEASON- *Ms. Burke* reported that Ms. Ries did a great job with the flu clinics as well as Mrs. Nicastro and the nurse volunteers. She stated that 1300 people were vaccinated thus far which does not include the schools. She stated that they are beginning to hear about avian influenza, a new strain and MDPH and the Department of Agriculture will be reaching out to owners of chickens to educate them.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT- *Ms. Burke* reported that the Health Department was pursuing the candidacy for Randy Burley, for the Title 5 Inspector Sanitarian position but they were unable to meet the salary gap. They are now reviewing other resumes. She stated that Mr. Schenk has been doing a great job with Title 5 and housing inspections in the interim.

CHILDREN'S DENTAL CENTER- *Ms. Burke* reported that the Health Department has set up a joint lunch meeting with the staff of the Gloucester Family Health Center, the Dental Center, and the Children's Dental Center. She stated the lunch will be on November 13, 2015.

NEW DATABASE SYSTEM- *Ms. Burke* reported that she spoke with James Pope regarding the new database for the complaint management system. She stated that Mr. Pope is working on the program alone so it is taking some time to implement the program.

ANGEL PROGRAM- *Ms. Burke* reported that Angel Program continues to excel and has even received national coverage from Hilary Clinton.

CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS

COYOTES- *Mr. Cowan* stated that a resident of 39 Eastern Point Road was concerned about the presence of coyotes in the area and the concern regarding their pets and personal safety. *Chairperson Sagall* stated that coyotes are everywhere and when people try to thin the pack they reproduce quicker. He stated that it is illegal to kill them or to transport them to another location. *Mr. Harris* stated that in areas where it is legal to hunt coyotes, you never see them because they are afraid of humans; here they will come right up to people because they have no fear.

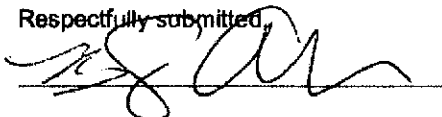
BUSSE SYSTEM- *Mr. Cowan* stated that people that have tight tanks should be made aware of the new Busse systems as an alternate to a tight tank. *Mr. Schenk* stated that he can tell people that there are other technologies but it would be up to the engineer to recommend a particular type of system.

BARGES IN THE HARBOR- *Mr. Rosa* asked what the National Grid barges in the harbor were doing with their dredged material. *Mr. Schenk* stated that given the lack of permits, the dredge is being off-loaded and trucked upland to an authorized disposal site outside of Gloucester

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETINGS- *Chairperson Sagall* stated that the next Board of Health Meeting will be on December 3rd, 2015. *Mr. Rosa* stated that he cannot attend the December 3rd, 2015 meeting.

MOTION by Mr. Rosa to adjourn.
Seconded by Mr. Cowan. **CARRIED.**
MEETING ADJOURNED – 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by:



Richard Sagall, Chairperson

Documents Referenced:

November 5th, 2015 Board of Health Agenda
September 10th, 2015 Board of Health Minutes
October 1st, 2015 Board of Health Minutes
September 15th, 2015 Board of Health SSC Minutes
Monthly Reports