

CITY OF GLOUCESTER
Board of Health
Minutes of the Meeting
September 10, 2015
City Hall Annex
3 Pond Road
Gloucester, MA 01930

CITY CLERK
GLOUCESTER, MA
15 NOV 13 AM 9:56

Board members present: Chairperson: Dr. Richard Sagall, Vice-Chairperson: Robert Harris, Frederick Cowan, Joe Rosa and Claudia Schweitzer. Present from the Health Department: Public Health Director: Noreen Burke. Manager, of Environmental Health: Max Schenk; and Kelley Ries, Public Health Nurse. 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. Cowan to approve the Gloucester Board of Health minutes of the meeting of August 6th, 2015 with correction. **Seconded** by Mr. Rosa. **CARRIED**. Ms. Schweitzer **Abstained**.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no "New Business".

OLD BUSINESS

FLUORIDATION IN COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY-

Chairperson Sagall stated that there is a community fluoridation meeting on October 19th, 2014 at City Hall from 7-830 p.m. He urged board members to attend. He stated that they are working with the Better Oral Health Group and other professionals to create a panel for the meeting. He stated that the meeting will be taped by Cape Ann TV.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented by Noreen Burke, Max Schenk and Kelley Ries

NEEDLE DISPOSAL SITES- *Ms. Ries* reported that she had postcards made and distributed them to several key locations around town. The postcards educate residents of the needle disposal sites in Gloucester. She stated that there are disposal kiosks at Addison Gilbert Hospital and the North Shore Health Project. *Chairperson Sagall* stated that NeedyMeds will be launching a new website called safeneedledisposal.org that will give locations to all safe needle disposal sites in the United States. *Mr. Cowan* asked who will empty the wall units at the Rose Baker Senior Center and the Police Station. *Ms. Ries* responded that she will empty the wall units monthly and then bring them back to the Health Department and a contract company will pick them up twice a year to dispose of them.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES- *Ms. Ries* reported that it was a quiet communicable disease month. She reported that there were four investigations: an ongoing hospitalized TB case, 2 campylobacter, and 1 Pertussis. She stated that there were 54 reported Lyme disease cases (44 suspect, 4 probable, and 6 confirmed) which is higher than last year.

FLU SEASON- *Ms. Ries* reported that she held an orientation today for the nurses to review some changes in the vaccine, and an orientation on Tuesday night for clerical staff. She stated that the senior

housing flu clinics will start next week. She stated that she submitted an application to get reimbursed for Mass Health insurance. She stated that there are 530 doses of flu mist and 150 intramuscular from the State to be administered at the City schools at the end of October. She thanked Mrs. Nicastro for her help with the flu clinics. She asked board members to volunteer at the flu clinics. There will be a flu clinic at the Rose Baker Senior Center on October 7, 2015 from 8-11 am and on October 22, 2015 at Addison Gilbert Hospital. She stated that this year's vaccine is quadrivalent.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT- *Mr. Schenk* reported that the Health Department has been very busy and the staff has been very supportive.

MHAO TRAINING- *Mr. Schenk* reported he and Ms. Burke attended and graduated from the MHOA management course they attended. He stated that the course was centered on managing public health in the 21st Century.

ATLANTIC ROAD WHALE- *Mr. Schenk* reported the Health Department received a phone call from a property owner of 189 Atlantic Road that there was a dead whale on the shore. He stated that he and Ms. Ries did a site visit and there was no visible smell or insects around the carcass. He stated that he informed the Harbor Master and owner that there was no public health risk present. Unless it poses a serious health threat there is nothing anyone can do because it is in an area that is not easily accessible.

HOARDING TASK FORCE- *Mr. Schenk* reported that the Hoarding Task Force was awarded a \$4,000 grant to help the task force respond to hoarding cases in the Cape Ann Community. He stated that Senior Care will be the host agency for the grant.

FLU CLINICS- *Ms. Burke* reported that Ms. Ries has been doing a fantastic job preparing for the upcoming flu clinics. She stated that the flu clinics this year will not be a regional effort. She stated that many Health Departments, such as Rockport, have decided to stop flu clinics because of the availability of vaccinations at pharmacies.

STAFFING UPDATES- *Ms. Burke* reported that five applications have been received for the Sanitarian position and the posting will close on September 22, 2015.

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.

PAST HEALTH DEPARTMENT MEMOS- *Ms. Burke* shared some old memos from the Health Department she came across with board members.

DR. MONICA BHAREL- *Ms. Burke* reported that she met Dr. Monica Bharel the new MDH Commissioner yesterday. She stated that Dr. Bharel made some good points that she shared with the board: health disparities are persistent in Massachusetts's communities and mortality rates are linked to zip codes more than any other factor. Dr. Bharel also spoke about the opioid crisis and the need to utilize data to identify hotspot problem areas.

ANGEL PROGRAM- *Ms. Burke* reported that the Angel Program is continuing to thrive and grow in the community.

DENTAL CENTER- *Ms. Burke* reported that she will be meeting with Dr. Gabrielle DeMille, the Dental Director of the North Shore Community Health program, to build a relationship between the Gloucester Family Health Center and the Children's Dental Health Center.

WEST NILE- Ms. Burke reported that there are now two confirmed cases of West Nile virus in Massachusetts.

MEDICAL DISPOSAL DAY- Ms. Burke reported that the Medication Disposal Day will be held in the parking lot of the Rose Baker Senior Center on September 26, 2015 from 9-1.

CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS

NOISE LEVELS IN RESTAURANTS- Mr. Cowan followed up with the Building Inspector regarding noise levels inside of city restaurants. He stated that there are no regulations that pertain to indoor noise.

SMOKING OUTSIDE- Ms. Schweitzer asked if there were any regulations pertaining to smoking outside at restaurants or other outside areas, such as a whale watch boat. Mr. Schenk responded that there are no regulations that pertain to outside smoking as long there is a separation between indoor and outdoor areas and that the smoke is not allowed to drift inside through an open window or door. He stated that he would provide the board with some sample text from Joyce Redford.

HEALTH DIRECTOR RETIRING – Ms. Schweitzer stated that Ms. Burke will be retiring at the end of the year.

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETINGS- Chairperson Sagall stated that the next Board of Health Meeting will be on October 1st, 2015. Mr. Cowan stated that he cannot attend the October 1, 2015 meeting.

MOTION by Ms. Schweitzer to adjourn.
Seconded by Mr. Cowan. **CARRIED.**
MEETING ADJOURNED – 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by:



Richard Sagall, Chairperson

Documents Referenced:
September 10th, 2015 Board of Health Agenda
August 6th, 2015 Board of Health Minutes
Monthly Reports