

CITY OF GLOUCESTER
Board of Health
Minutes of the Meeting
March 14, 2013
CATA Training Room
3 Pond Road
Gloucester, MA 01930

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

PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATION

Isaac Rowe, of Mill River Consulting appeared before the board on behalf of Chris Peterson the owner of 15 Totten Lane. He stated that the owner would like to get city water to the property year round. He stated that he would like the Board of Health to consider the request to extend city water up to 15 Totten Lane. He stated that the other option they are considering is to install a cistern at the property. He stated that he is having trouble finding regulations regarding cisterns. *Mr. Rowe* stated that he would like to request the issue to be on an agenda for a Septic Subcommittee meeting since the item was not on the agenda and the board could not provide any feedback.

MOTION by Ms. Schweitzer that the Gloucester Board of Health approve the Minutes of the Meeting of February 7, 2013 as written. **Seconded** by Mr. Rosa. **CARRIED.**

**MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR,
& PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORTS**

Presented by Noreen Burke

STAFF POSITIONS- *Ms. Burke* reported that they are in the midst of hiring a Sanitarian and a Public Health Nurse. She asked board members to publicize the open positions through personal and professional networks. She stated that they have a retired public health nurse that has been assisting with the open public health nurse position, as well as other public health nurses in neighboring communities. She stated that she would like to form a hiring subcommittee to assist with the interviews.

BUDGET- *Ms. Burke* reported that the Health Department has been asked to submit a level-funded budget. She stated that they did put in for the electronic database, Revenue Sense and for a new Health Department vehicle.

GRANTS- *Ms. Burke* reported that she and Joan Whitney submitted the regional Opiate Intervention Grant on February 25th, 2013.

EMERGENCY SHELTER- *Ms. Burke* reported that they are looking at a new emergency shelter location. She stated that they are looking at the O'Maley Middle School as an emergency shelter site and would like to have a drill in the summer or early fall there.

MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES- *Ms. Burke* reported that she received an update from Greg Cadematori, in the Community Development office. She stated that MDPH has determined that marijuana dispensaries are a complicated issue and they are requesting more time to deal with the issue. She stated that they will continue to update the board on the issue.

MOSQUITO CONTROL FORUM- *Ms. Burke* reported that she did submit their mosquito control recommendation formally to the Mayor asking her to consider joining the district for surveillance services. She stated that there is a regional public forum on March 27, 2013 at Cruiseport from 6:30-8:30; she invited board members to attend the forum with her.

GLOUCESTER FAMILY HEALTH CENTER- *Ms. Burke* stated that she had a discussion with Margaret Brennan, the Director of the Gloucester Family Health Center, about her concern of the viability of the Gloucester Family Health Center. She stated that the Health Department and the Board of Health should be supporting the Health Center. *Ms. Schweitzer* stated that the board is willing to help promote the Health Center anyway they can.

HOTEL AT THE FORT- *Ms. Burke* stated that the Health Department was asked to submit a memo regarding the construction of the proposed hotel at the fort. She stated that some potential health issues that the Health Department outlined were rodents, air quality, and construction noise levels.

SHINGLES VACCINE- *Ms. Burke* reported that once the interim Public Health Nurse returns from Florida they will order more vaccine. She stated that they already administered 90 doses to residents.

SAWYER FREE LIBRARY- *Ms. Burke* stated that she was asked read a poem on April 4, 2013 at 7 pm at the Sawyer Free Library. She stated that April 4th is the next scheduled Board of Health meeting, so she might have to leave a few minutes early.

NEW BUSINESS

GET FIT GLOUCESTER- *Steve Winslow*, Director of Get Fit Gloucester appeared before the board. He gave board members a brief summary of the Get Fit Gloucester program. He stated that the program is funded by the Mass in Motion grant. He stated that the program focuses on getting residents more active and access to eating healthier foods by environmental changes. He spoke about proposed projects such as Safe Routes to School, Newell Field, Harbor Walk, the School Environmental Survey, and School Gardens. He discussed the Massachusetts Health Care Reform and how it will affect communities. *Ms. Schweitzer* asked if the program targets mental health. He responded that they are working with the Chill Zone and the Healthy Gloucester Collaborative to promote healthy living. The board thanked Mr. Winslow for his presentation and all his efforts with the Get Fit Gloucester Program.

CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS

STAFF APPRECIATION- The board discussed details of Staff Appreciation Night and decided to postpone the event until the open positions are filled.

OPEN POSITIONS- *Ms. Schweitzer* stated that the board needs to be supportive during this time with two open positions at the Health Department.

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETINGS- *Ms. Burke* stated that the next Board of Health Meeting will be on April 4th, 2013.

MOTION by Mr. Rosa to adjourn.
Seconded by Ms. Schweitzer. **CARRIED.**
MEETING ADJOURNED – 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by:

Rob Harris, Vice-Chairperson