

**CITY OF GLOUCESTER  
Board of Health  
Minutes of the Meeting  
January 5, 2017  
5:30 p.m.  
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: Health Director: Karin Carroll; and Assistant Director: Max Schenk. Absent: Frederick Cowan.

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 Ms. Schweitzer to approve the Gloucester Board of Health minutes of the meeting of December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 as written. **Seconded** by Mr. Harris. **CARRIED**. Mr. Rosa **abstained**.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Lead in Water Testing at Gloucester Public Schools –

*Ms. Carroll* gave Board members an update on the lead in the water testing at Gloucester Public Schools. She stated that the Gloucester Public Schools’ water was tested for lead and the results came back that some faucets had lead levels that were above the actionable levels. She stated that there were 17 faucets with actionable levels in the whole district. She stated that none of those faucets were drinking fountains or water bottle fill stations. She stated that Mike Hale of the DPW has closed off all the faucets that had actionable levels of lead until all fixtures are replaced with lead-free fixtures. She stated that the DPW was already in the process of replacing all of the fixtures. She stated that there has been some concern around the community of a lower threshold to coincide with the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendation. She stated that she went through the remaining fixtures using that lower threshold and there were an additional 8 sinks; none of those fixtures were drinking fountains. She stated that all drinking fountains and water bottle fill stations were either non-detectable or below actionable for lead and copper. She stated that they do regular flushing of all pipes in the schools especially after vacations. She stated that after all the fixtures are replaced they will re-test before they are re-opened for use. She stated that she will work with Larry Durkin to do some community outreach. She stated that Mr. Ackerley has drafted an educational letter for well-owners as well.

*Mr. Rosa* stated that this will raise some issues with the community. He stated that the education process should include how people can find out whether they have lead in their drinking water in their homes, including a list of certified labs that do lead testing and residents should not drink hot water. *Ms. Carroll* stated that they did provide an educational pamphlet in the past that includes that information. She stated that there is information on the City website and the Health Department’s Facebook page.

*Mr. Rosa* asked if the older pipes in central Gloucester are tested for lead. *Mr. Schenk* responded that the City has a number of testing sites within the system. He stated that the City does consistent testing and there has not been an issue thus far at any specific sites within the City.

*Mr. Harris* stated that every piece of brass tubing or pipe made after a year or two ago was made lead-free. Anything older than that could be susceptible to lead.

*Chairperson Sagall* asked what tenants could do to have their water tested. *Mr. Schenk* responded that part of the State Code states that landlords must provide a safe and potable water supply.

*Mr. Rosa* asked if there was a larger group in the City that is looking more closely into lead levels in water. *Ms. Carroll* responded that there is not a group that she is aware of.

*Kathy Clancy* member of the Gloucester School Committee appeared before the board. She stated that there is not a larger group in the City addressing the issue.

*Mr. Rosa* asked Ms. Clancy if the School Committee was satisfied by the response of the City to the actionable lead levels at the schools. *Ms. Clancy* responded that they will be getting a report from the DPW on Wednesday evening and they will certainly be asking many of the same questions that the Board of Health has. She stated that they are also concerned about the age of the pipes downtown.

*Ms. Carroll* stated that Gloucester has a very high rate of lead screening in children under 2; around 99% of Gloucester's children are screened for lead and because of that Gloucester is labeled as a low risk community.

*Valerie Nelson* of 7 Sunset Point Road appeared before the board. She gave Board members her analysis of the testing done at Beeman and Veterans schools. She stated that the testing data should be accessible to residents and forming a committee is an excellent idea. She asked if all the fixtures were going to be replaced in all of the schools.

*Ms. Carroll* stated that she will confirm if the DPW intends on replacing all fixtures in all the schools.

The board agreed to suggest to the Mayor that a committee be formed to address the issue of lead in water.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Update on 1 Pilot's Hill Condemnation Order-**

*Mr. Schenk* stated that the Health Department has been working with Mr. Aro, the owner of 1 Pilot's Hill. He stated that the water and sewer are reconnected and Mr. Aro is still working on getting the exterior of the home cleaned up. He stated that Mr. Costonis has been consistently checking on the property to ensure that Mr. Aro is not living in the dwelling.

### **MONTHLY REPORTS**

Presented by Max Schenk

The following "Monthly Report" to Board members.



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*Ms. Carroll* stated that there has been a lot of discussion around the legalization of marijuana so they put together a base camp on the City's website where residents can access articles and access other information pieces on the issue. She stated that they have a meeting set up for next week with Jim

Destino and other City departments on how the City will proceed with the legalization of marijuana. The board discussed issues around the legalization of marijuana.

*Ms. Carroll* asked the Board how they would like to proceed with strategic planning. The board agreed to have *Ms. Carroll* and *Mr. Schenk* work on the strategic plan and bring it back to the board.

### **CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Elections of Board Members – *Ms. Schweitzer* asked when elections of Board members are held. The board agreed to hold elections at the next meeting.

Cape Ann Television- Chairperson Sagall thanked *Mr. Schenk* for his letter of support for Cape Ann Television and stated how important it is as a resource to educate the community on issues. He encouraged other board members to write letters.

Department Celebration- *Ms. Schweitzer* asked if board members and staff would like to plan a celebration of the department for all their hard work. The board agreed to organize an event. *Ms. Carroll* stated that the staff agreed to volunteer at the Open Door Food Pantry in lieu of having their staff holiday celebration.

Next Regular Monthly Meeting Board of Health- The next Board of Health monthly meeting will be on February 2, 2017 at the CATA Training Room at 5:30 p.m.

**MOTION** by *Mr. Harris* to adjourn.  
Seconded by *Mr. Rosa*. **CARRIED.**  
MEETING ADJOURNED – 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by:

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Richard Sagall, Chairperson

Documents Referenced:  
January 5, 2017 Board of Health Agenda  
December 1, 2016 Board of Health Minutes  
January 2017 Monthly Department Reports