

CITY OF GLOUCESTER
Board of Health
Minutes of the Meeting
November 10, 2022
5:30 p.m.
Harbormaster's Office Conference Room &
Hybrid Meeting Via Zoom

Board members present: Chairperson: Joseph Rosa; Vice-Chairperson: Claudia Schweitzer; Dr. Don Ganim; and Dr. Eric Kaplan. Present from the Health Department: Public Health Director: Mary Ellen Rose; Interim Public Health Nurse: Cindy Juncker; Health Inspector: Brie Gray; Food Safety Inspector: Jake Taylor; Regional Prevention Director: Chelsea Goldstein-Walsh; Financial Specialist: Lee O'Leary.

The meeting started at 5:30 p.m.

This meeting is recorded by video and audio in accordance with state Open Meeting Law. This meeting will be conducted by remote participation. If you are calling in on a phone you can press Star 9 (*9) to request to speak. If you are watching on a computer or device there is a "raise hand" button that you can tap or press to request to speak. Please use either of these options during oral communications to be recognized to speak.

Chairperson Rosa introduced the newest Board of Health member, Marco Pallazola.

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 October 6, 2022 as written. **Seconded** by Dr. Kaplan. **CARRIED**.

Director's Report & Other Department Updates

Presented by Public Health Director Mary Ellen Rose

[October Monthly Report](#)

Marco Pallazola- *Dr. Rose* welcomed Mr. Pallazola to the Board of Health.

Staffing- *Dr. Rose* reported that she is very proud of the staff of the Health Department. She stated that Ms. Juncker and Ms. Nelligan have saved the City of Gloucester thousands of dollars with their clinic proficiency. She reported that Ms. O'Leary has been holding up internal

operations of the department. She reported that Mr. Taylor, Ms. Gray, and Ms. Wheelan has been relentless in staying on top of their work. She reported that Ms. Goldstein-Walsh has been working on bringing the department up to speed on their grant compliance. She reported that the Health Department is moving towards a digital future to reduce their paper shortage challenges. She reported that they are in the process of reconfiguring their office space. She reported that they continue to interview candidates and post positions to fill their staff shortages. She encouraged the community to apply for posted jobs and other volunteer positions that are available. She reported that they are also seeking interns from a university and local technical private companies.

Good Harbor Creek- *Dr. Rose* reported that the Good Harbor Creek report is now complete and she will report on the findings at the December meeting.

Community Relationships- *Dr. Rose* reported that their new initiative directed at Gloucester's older population in collaboration with the Gloucester Police Department's Community Impact Unit Was featured in the Gloucester Daily Times and the Boston Globe following their kick-off event of October 17, 2022. She stated that they plan to have 1-2 events each month for this initiative. She stated that the first event will be on December 1, 2022 at the YMCA.

Biosafety Subcommittee- *Dr. Rose* stated that the Biosafety Subcommittee met on November 3, 2022 and they are working on reviewing the regulations that were developed in September 2009. She stated that the subcommittee's objective is to enable the Board of Health to ensure the public that all DNA and rDNA work in Gloucester is being done in accordance with the current NIH guidelines as well as the further limitations that are imposed by Gloucester's regulatory documents.

Septic Review Subcommittee- *Dr. Rose* stated that she would like to expand the membership of the Septic Review Subcommittee to include more professionals to assist the team in an advisory capacity; along those lines she received a request by a member of the Gloucester community to be considered for membership on the subcommittee and she will share that information with the subcommittee chairperson. She stated that she may request a special meeting to present the name of that community member to the Board of Health.

Jones Creek- *Dr. Rose* reported that there is an issue with pollution at Jones Creek and they are beginning to work with the Shellfish Warden to better understand the challenges. .

Intern- *Dr. Rose* reported that there was an intern who worked in the department under Mr. Schenk that would like to return to do another internship.

Clark Building- *Dr. Rose* reported that the Clark building where the Dental Center used to be will now be used for education training and clinic usage for the Health Department as well as for storage. She stated that they have secured furniture from the library to use at the Clark building.

Ms. Schweitzer stated that Lynn Lyons will be coming to Gloucester High School for an event that is co-sponsored by the Health Department to speak about childhood anxiety.

Dr. Rose stated that she came across a video created by a high school student a few years ago as part of a health project regarding dating violence and she received permission from the student to use the video on the Health Department's website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Food Inspections- *Mr. Taylor* reported that they had 49 inspections this month with no cases of food-borne illnesses. He stated that Ms. Gray, Ms. Wheelan, and he traveled to Falmouth recently to attend the MOH conference. He stated that there were 2 events that went off without a hitch last month.

Title 5 Inspections- *Mr. Taylor* reported that Title 5 inspections are going well under the new inspector, Leslie Whelan. He stated that Ms. Wheelan did an excellent job redesigning the septic section on the Health Department's website.

Housing Inspections- *Ms. Gray* reported that she did 16 rental dwelling inspections.

Flu Clinics- *Ms. Juncker* stated that they have had 13 flu clinics and vaccinated 683 people. She stated that they will continue to offer clinics as long as there is interest.

Shingles Vaccine- *Ms. Juncker* stated that in January the shingles vaccine will be covered under most insurances. The board discussed whether the Health Department should still purchase shingles vaccine next year. They agreed to gather more information on which insurance companies will cover the vaccine and direct people who have it covered by insurance to go to a pharmacy.

Communicable Diseases- *Ms. Juncker* stated that they had four flu cases; 140 COVID-19 cases; and one varicella case. She stated that the cases are still low in the Biobot data results.

COVID-19 numbers can be found at the [city website](#).

Dr. Rose stated that they have N95 masks, blue hospital disposable masks, and COVID-19 test kits available for the public at the Health Department.

Prevention Reporting- *Ms. Goldstein-Walsh* stated that she is the only person in the Substance Abuse Prevention Team. She stated that two staff were recently hired and will be starting soon on the team. She stated that they are working on a grant to fund a mental health high school program. She stated that they have started to look at the data from the youth risk assessment survey. She stated that they hosted a medication disposal day on October 29 in collaboration with the Health Department, the Police Department and the Rose Baker Senior Center. She stated that it was a successful day. She stated that they will do it again in April of 2023. She

stated that Walgreens, CVS, and the Police Department all have receptacles to drop off unused medications year-round.

Dr. Rose asked the board to consider if they still want to fund the sharps disposal boxes to the Police Department. *Chairperson Rosa* stated that safe sharp disposal is important but the Health Department might want to look into who should fund those boxes in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

Review of Essex County Recycling Center Presentation- *Debra Darby* the Organics Sustainability Solutions Manager of Tetrattech appeared before the board. She stated that she is working with their client, a local solid waste facility, in Gloucester and Paul Hardman who is the Business and Operations Manager for Eastern Waste Services at 24 Kondelin Road. She stated that five years ago Eastern Waste Services bought the Hiltz company and is continuing to operate under a general recycling permit but would like to advance their recycling to have a transfer station to handle and transfer construction and demolition materials and municipal solid waste as well as continue to handle general recycling of materials. She gave a brief overview of the operations of a transfer station. She stated that they will be conducting a traffic study.

Chairperson Rosa asked what communities would use the transfer station. *Ms. Darby* responded that they would just service Cape Ann communities. *Dr. Ganim* asked what would prevent other communities from using the transfer station. *Ms. Darby* responded that there are other facilities in Woburn, Peabody, and Georgetown that other communities use.

Ms. Darby stated that they are in the permitting process now and should submit an application to the DEP in December.

Dr. Rose stated that one of the Health Inspector's largest complaint areas is dumpster management. She stated that the traffic study should be aware of the traffic patterns at the intersection of Essex Avenue and Concord Street as well as at the Route 128 on and off ramps.

OLD BUSINESS

Good Harbor Creek Pollution Investigation- *Chairperson Rosa* stated that the data from the Good Harbor Creek survey is being reviewed and will be summarized at the next Board of Health meeting.

Tobacco Regulations and Amendment - *Chairperson Rosa* stated that Joyce Redford will be at the December meeting to present the amendments to the Board of Health Tobacco Regulations.

CONCERNS OF THE BOARD

Assistant Health Director- Ms. Schweitzer asked if the Assistant Health Director position has been posted yet. Dr. Rose responded that the Assistant Director position was created for Mr. Schenk because his expertise was useful in that position. She stated that they have Ms. Wheelan that can assist in Title 5 concerns and the consultation services of Dan Ottenheimer. She stated that she does not see the need to hire an assistant director to oversee the staff. She stated that her vision is to have an inspection team that reflects the needs of the community. She stated that hopefully there will be an inspection supervisor that would manage an inspection team. She stated that an Operational Manager position has been approved by the union. She stated that they are also thinking about changing the Public Health Nurse role to a part-time position who would share the job with a part-time Public Health Educator - allowing to attract more nurse candidates and offloading the non-RN responsibilities to a health educator.

Next Regular Monthly Meeting Board of Health- The next regular Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 1, 2022 at 5:30 pm.

MOTION by Ms. Schweitzer to adjourn.
Seconded by Dr. Kaplan. **CARRIED.**
MEETING ADJOURNED – 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

_____/s/ Bobbi Orlando_____

Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by:

_____/s/ Joseph Rosa_____

Joseph Rosa, Chairperson

Documents Referenced:
November 10, 2022 Board of Health Agenda
October 6, 2022 Board of Health Minutes
October Monthly Report