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BELMONT, MA

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2015

2015 APR -2 PM 2:12

The February 11, 2015 meeting of the Belmont Board of Health was called to order at 5:30 pm by Donna S. David, R.N., M.N., Chair

Donna S. David, R.N., M.N., Chair, made a motion to appoint Angela Braun, R.S., Director, as recording clerk for this meeting.

Those present were Donna S. David, R.N., M.N., Chair; David B. Alper, D.P.M., Vice Chair; Deirdre Houtmeyers, R.N., M.S., Member; Angela Braun, R.S., Director; David Neylon, R.N., C.I.C., R.E.H.S. Also present were several members of the public.

The Board welcomed Sophie Benyamina, owner of Praline. Sophie elaborated on the menu offerings at her new food service establishment and provided a number of details regarding Praline. She explained that she is currently open six days a week, with Monday off. She is the only Certified Food Protection Manager available at this time. However, she is planning on sending another employee to the training. She has no seats at the establishment. Sophie explained that she has been very busy with her new role as the owner and head chef of a retail food operation and the Board wished her much success. The Board also encouraged Ms. Benyamina to reach out to the Health Department if she should have any questions or concerns.

Three members of the public were present at the meeting who desired to address the Board regarding the construction plans of the Underwood Pool. Conversation ensued during the Public Participation segment of the meeting. Anne Paulsen and Ellen Schreiber of the Underwood Pool Building Committee, and Tom Scarlata, the Underwood Pool architect of Bargmann, Hendrie and Archetype, Inc. reviewed a recent revision to the Underwood Pool plans. The revisions described are for the slide and the island of the family pool. Details of the revisions were presented to the Board. The former drop slide and underwater bench attached to a dividing wall and trellis have been modified. The modification was in response to the November 2014 variance request denial from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), Bureau of Environmental Health, Division of Community Sanitation stating that the slide and bench did not meet the Departments minimum standards. The bench has been eliminated, creating only a dividing wall and attached trellis cover for shade. Secondly, the drop slide has been reconfigured to be a water slide flume.

Despite the modifications made to the plans, Angela Braun, R.S., Director, determined that the wall "island" and water slide flume still do not meet the minimum standards of the State Sanitary Code 105 CMR 435.000. The swimming pool being used as the splashdown pool for the slide flume requires a turn-over rate of once per hour and the island wall is a projection in the pool. Dr. Alper added that the DPH is the policy makers of the Pool Code requirements and that the Health Department staff is required to follow the required regulations; that procedures must be followed. If the local Health Board approves a variance, it then goes before the State for approval. Dr. Alper is also concerned with the installation of a trellis over part of the pool. The trellis could serve as a bird landing and the ensuing bird droppings would drop into the pool.

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Mr. Scarlata gave a detailed interpretation of the current state code, and how the safety measures to be implemented as standard operating procedures at the Underwood along with the planned water turnover rate of 4 turnovers per hour are more than sufficient to meet the needs of the public and the intentions of the sanitary code. Ms. Schreiber gave explanations regarding the design of the family pool. Ms. Paulsen stated that she would like the opportunity to speak to representatives of the DPH prior to submitting a request for a variance. The public participation segment of the meeting was ended with the conclusion that an Underwood Pool Building Committee member would be contacting the DPH with the intention of scheduling a meeting between the Committee, DPH, and a representative of the Board of Health to discuss the aforementioned revisions.

David Neylon, RN, CIC, REHS, gave a brief overview of the monthly reportable disease report for Belmont, and his monthly report regarding the current MA influenza activity, the national measles epidemic, and the global Ebola crisis. Dr. Alper expressed his concern regarding the measles outbreak and the apparent number of people who choose not to be immunized. David stated that MA has a high immunization rate – in at least the mid 90%. David and members believe the Belmont public is in align with the State immunization rate and that the Schools are in good shape.

Dr. Alper then asked David to elaborate on his thoughts regarding the pros and cons of operating a large scale family flu clinic in Belmont this year. This topic triggered a number of ideas, thoughts, and comments among the Health Department staff present and the Board members. Over the past few years there has been a dramatic drop off of public participation in flu clinics. Dr. Alper asked the Director and the Public Health Nurse to do some investigation into the reality of whether or not the Belmont Health Department should pursue this matter and report back to the Board in April.

The remainder of the staff reports were reviewed and discussed. This included the Director's report and the Animal Control, Youth and Family Services, and Veteran's report. The Board asked a few questions regarding details of the reports. The Director mentioned that the temporary food safety consultant, Mr. Randy Phelps, recently conducted seven inspections and no major issues were reported.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Donna S. David, R.N., M.N., Chair