

2016 JAN 15 AM 8:36

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2015

The November 12, 2015 meeting of the Belmont Board of Health was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by David B. Alper, D.P.M., Chair.

Those present were David B. Alper, D.P.M., Chair; Donna S. David, R.N., M.N., Vice Chair; Deirdre Houtmeyers, R.N., M.S., Member; Angela Braun, R.S., Director; Wesley B. Chin, Assistant Director; Maria Reddington, Clerk;

The October 15, 2015 Meeting Minutes were approved by a vote of 3-0.

The Receipts report and Expense report were reviewed.

David Neylon, RN, CIC, REHS, Public Health Nurse was present to answer questions pertaining to the Community Flu Clinic After Action Report. Dr. Alper was pleased with the results. Mr. Neylon told Board members that current licensure status of nurse volunteers is confirmed prior to holding the clinic. It was suggested the Health Department consider hosting 3 flu clinics next year, dependent upon the reimbursement rate realized from this year's flu clinics. There was also discussion about hosting a flu clinic with a Region 4A community (Lexington), as this would be a beneficial exercise in the event of an emergency. Mr. Neylon will seek to vaccinate under-insured restaurant workers in the upcoming weeks. The Disease report was also reviewed.

Mr. Wesley Chin, Assistant Health Director, introduced Mr. Jose Rios, owner of Spoodles. Mr. Rios told Board members that business is doing much better since street paving in the area has been completed. Mr. Rios said he has 5 stools along the window for patron seating, and may inquire about placing outdoor seating for spring/summer months. Wesley also mentioned the first routine inspection of Spoodles was great. Mr. Rios said the pre-opening walk through with Ms. Braun afforded him the opportunity to know what Health Department inspectors expect of a Belmont food establishment.

John Maguranis, Belmont Animal Control Officer was present to answer questions pertaining to the Off Leash Permit program. John began by affirming the program's success; stating there are infrequent complaints; 136 permits have been issued (8 permits are for non-residents); 3 assessments resulted in John advising the owner to continue training with their dog before off leash permit status was granted; 3 off leash permits issued were cancelled. John also said a dog trainer was hired by the Recreation Department and it was quite successful. John foresees it will increase in its popularity as word of mouth spreads. Dr. Alper asked if there is a requirement that a dog owner have a leash with them at all times. John replied there was not a requirement, but he felt it was a great idea and he will be adding it to the Assessment form. John was asked if the program should be restricted to a few town fields, but John said no, the program works. John cited the fact that Winn Brook Elementary School field has many children present all the time, and John has never had to respond to an off leash dog complaint. Dr. Alper had a concern about the Belmont Police Department staff being on board with the program, to which John replied they all have his cell phone number and are encouraged to call him whenever the need arises. Dr. Alper suggested a media campaign in the spring regarding the Off Leash Permit Program.

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2015

Angela said it would be a good opportunity to promote the dog training component of the Program.

The Animal Control Report was reviewed. Board member questions/answers included:

1. ACO coverage with other Towns, and should Belmont be reimbursed for same? John said no, it is an informal reciprocal set up with surrounding towns.
2. How many service dogs does Belmont currently license? Angela said she would ask the Town Clerk's office for that number.
3. John recently testified before state representatives in connection with the Act Relative to the Control of Coyotes House Bill 747. John urged all in attendance to review the Bill, as it proposes the use of leg hold traps on coyotes. It was suggested that Angela draft a letter for the Board's signature regarding their opinion to stop the proposed use of leg hold traps on coyotes.

Dr. Alper made an announcement that the Hearing concerning 55 Concord Avenue would be tape recorded.

Transcription of the minutes concerning the Hearing for 55 Concord Avenue DOES NOT include the audio recording. It appears a malfunction occurred, as playback of the tape used at the Hearing did not produce audio. The blank tape used in the audio recorder will be marked "Hearing – 55 Concord Avenue – November 12, 2015 – BLANK."

The Hearing concerning 55 Concord Avenue was called to order by Dr. David Alper at 6:20 pm. Members of the Public present for the Hearing were Mr. Michael Lohin; Ms. Jeri Fraser; Ms. Kimberly Fraser; Ms. Michelle Fraser; Mr. Thomas Cappalona; Dr. James Naher, DMD. Additional Health Department Staff present for the Hearing were Ms. Janet Amdur, LICSW, EdM, ATR, Belmont Youth and Family Services Coordinator; Mr. David Neylon, RN, CIC, REHS, Belmont Public Health Nurse.

Angela Braun presented an overview of the housing inspection and re-inspections conducted by her and/or Wesley Chin at 55 Concord Avenue. Ms. Braun concluded the members of the Board of Health will need to determine if the home should be condemned as a result of the housing inspections. Occupants of the home advised Board members they were in the process of cleaning up the home, and they have no place to live if the home were condemned. Mr. Michael Lohin advised Board members a purchase and sale agreement was signed on November 10, 2015, but he needed additional time to sort matters pertaining to the property prior to a closing. Mr. Lohin indicated a typical closing would take 45 days, but he may be able to push the closing of this property to 30 days. Dr. Alper stressed the fact that the property was not safe for occupancy for that period of time. Angela said a vote by the Board to condemn the property would force the occupants to vacate within 48 hours. Mr. Lohin was asked if he could advance sale proceeds in order to relocate current occupants. Mr. Lohin said he would have a meeting with his team and have an answer the next day. Other concerns were discussed, including fire hazard (occupants cannot get out due to blocked egresses); occupants have no access to temporary housing; destruction of family unit if they were homeless. Dr. Nager, direct abutter of the property, addressed the Board members to assure them of the fine neighbors all occupants have been for many years. Dr. Nager also expressed his appreciation to the Board members for

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2015

their thoughtful deliberations concerning this sensitive matter. The Hearing continued with final discussions on possible clean out of the property to deem it habitable, or finding available housing resources to relocate the occupants. Dr. Alper made a motion to stay a decision for 72 hours. The motion to stay a decision for 72 hours was approved by a vote of 3 – 0. A Public Meeting was scheduled to continue the Hearing on Wednesday, November 18, 2015. The Hearing adjourned at 7:05 pm.

The Assistant Director's report was reviewed, noting there were less food establishment inspections completed as a result of the need to respond to various complaints; the re-inspection of Ohlin's Bakery was a success; Phinix Grille's first routine food inspection was great; and a complaint of an unpermitted food truck selling food from the truck while parked in the Loading Dock's parking lot.

The Directors Report was discussed, including the status of 12 Merrill Avenue clean-up and 418 Common Street no water emergency. Dr. Alper said Health Department staff must retain a notebook with all the housing issues for presentation to the Warrant Committee. It is his opinion that man power is being drained in the department and staffing resources are needed.

Dr. Alper announced he must step down as a Member of the Cambridge Health Network Alliance, but he urged another Belmont Health representative to take over.

The Minuteman Household Hazardous Products program will be transferred to the Department of Public Works, effective July 1, 2016.

The Foodies Market plans have been submitted for Health Department review.

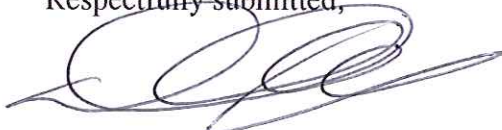
A property on Juniper Road will be connecting to the Town's sewer.

Congratulations to Robert Upton, Veterans' Services Officer, for a job well done at the first annual Veterans' Breakfast.

The next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2015.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David B. Alper', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David B. Alper, D.P.M., Chair