

The April 30, 2012 meeting of the Belmont board of Health was called to order at 5:30 pm by David B. Alper, D.P.M., Chair.

Those present were David B. Alper, D.P.M., Chair, Robert M. Eisendrath, M.D., Vice Chair, Donna David, R.N., M.N., Member, Stefan A. Russakow, Director, Ellen O'Doherty, Clerk, John Maguranis, Animal Control Officer.

The Hearing for Peter Pan regarding a third dog bite was opened at 5:31 pm. The Animal Control Officer described the latest biting incident and recommended a muzzle order be issued in order to prevent any further biting incidents. Mr. Pan and his family were present and Mr. Pan tried to explain that the sidewalk where this occurred was not wide enough for two people and a dog to pass each other and that he didn't feel the leash "tug" or anything. The victim did contact the police and it was verified by the officer who responded. The Board stated it was clear in the by-laws about the consequences of a third biting incident and ordered that "Bagel", the dog, be muzzled at all times when outside the home and it would be referred to the Board of Selectmen with that recommendation as well as that the dog can remain in the home as long as the muzzle order is followed. Mr. Bruce MacDonald asked for clarification as a neighbor helping the Pan family with the language barrier. The Board stated it was possible that additional training would be necessary in the future. The Animal Control Officer will assist the family in obtaining and fitting the muzzle and instruct them in the proper use as to not harm the dog. Hearing adjourned at 5:45 pm.

The Public Hearing for the proposed "Animal Regulations" was opened at 5:46 pm. Members of the Public were present and were asked to comment. A number of comments were submitted such as, setbacks, variances, "rules", quantity of chickens permitted, uncooked garbage definition, and "punitive" regulations. The Board thanked the Public for attending and closed the comment period at 6:47 pm stating that, if time permitted, a possible discussion and or vote would be taken up later in the meeting after other business was discussed.

The March 2012 Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously.

A re-organization vote was held: Unanimous

David B. Alper, D.P.M., Chair
Donna S. David, R.N., M.N., Vice Chair
Robert M. Eisendrath, M.D., Member
Ellen O'Doherty, Clerk

Disease and Receipts Reports were reviewed. Budget/Financial Report was discussed.

Director's Report (on file in the Health Department) was discussed.

The Assistant Director's Report (on file in the Health Department) was discussed and issues regarding dogs in outside eating areas of restaurants.

The Animal Control Officer's Report and Veteran's Officer Report were reviewed.

The Youth & Family Services report was discussed and the Board raised the question if the same type of detail was available for the work being done at the Beech Street Center by the Social Worker. The Director will talk with the Youth & Family Services worker to see what is available.

Complaints were reviewed followed by a discussion of the latest tobacco compliance check report. The Board was very disappointed that 93 Food Mart again sold tobacco to a minor and since it was the second offense within 12 months ordered the store owner to appear before the Board at the May 2012 meeting. The Director will issue the order. The Chair of the Board made a motion to amend the regulations of the "Sale of Tobacco to Minors" to raise the age of a "minor" (relative to tobacco purchasing) from 18 years old to 19 years old. Research has shown that it greatly reduces the incidences of minors smoking and is already in place in Needham. All voted in favor.

The discussion regarding the Animal Regulations was re-opened and some amendments were made to the draft proposal to clarify definitions and reduce setbacks. The Board voted in favor unanimously to adopt the amended regulations with an effective date of July 1, 2012.

Board member Robert M. Eisendrath, M.D., announced that he would be resigning his seat on the Board of Health. He will be sorely missed.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for May 30, 2012 at 5:15 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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