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Board of Health Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2016

The January 14, 2016 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; Maria Reddington, Clerk.

Public Attendees present were Ms. Julie Lemay, and Mr. Franklin Tucker of The Belmontonian.

The November 12, 2015 Meeting Minutes were approved by a vote of 3-0.

The November 18, 2015 Meeting Minutes were approved by a vote of 3-0.

There was a brief discussion concerning the number of service animals licensed, and ADA guidelines pertaining to allowable inquiries of service animal owners.

Angela will ask John Maguranis about the status of the Board's letter opposing Bill S. 409. , An Act to Protect Children and Adults from Wildlife. The Bill would allow use of leg hold traps on wildlife.

The summary of Ms. David's attendance at the MA Association of Health Board's Annual Certification Program was tabled until the next meeting.

The Off Leash Permit Program was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Ms. Braun summarized the Statewide Housing Court Expansion Proposal (Bills S. 901 and H. 1656), and referenced the website housingcourt4all.org for further details of the Proposal. Dr. Alper and Ms. Braun will attend the Board of Selectmen's Meeting on January 25, 2016 to present an overview of recent housing concerns in Belmont, as well as the Board of Health's support of the Proposal.

The Housing Court Expansion Proposal Letter of Support, signed by the Board of Health, was approved by a vote of 3-0.

There was no discussion concerning correspondence addressed to the Board of Health relating to the proposed Dunkin Donuts at 344-350 Pleasant Street, as a Special Permit request was denied by the Zoning Board of Appeals prior to the Board of Health Meeting.

The Receipts report was reviewed.

The Director's report was reviewed and included FY17 budget highlights: the department's request to increase the Veterans' Services Officer's hours; Capital Budget request to replace the

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Animal Control Officer van; and earmark budget money for services of a Food Establishment Inspection Consultant. Ms. David asked about the schedule to continue clean-up of the Merrill Avenue property, noting members of the Belmont Hill School hockey team are ready to assist in the clean-up efforts. Ms. Braun told the Board about 2 more grant opportunities, Racial Injustice and Domestic Violence, but advised the Board the department does not have enough staff to manage any more grants. There is an Employee Wellness Fair on January 20, 2016 and the Health Department will have a table set up. Ms. Braun briefed the Board about a report of a dog bite incident in October, as well as well water usage at My Other Kitchen. Dr. Alper said the food inspection list needs to be prioritized to insure food establishments are inspected twice per year.

The Disease Report was discussed, with comments suggesting the Avian Flu Report is very concerning. The Board wants Animal Bites removed from the Disease Report.

The Animal Control Report was reviewed.

The Youth and Family Services Report was reviewed, noting Ms. Amdur's programs and other job accomplishments are fantastic.

The Veterans' Services Officer Report was reviewed, noting Mr. Upton should be congratulated for the accomplishment in the Board of Selectmen Proclamation of Belmont's Recognition as a Purple Heart Community. Board members request notification of the date of the Ceremony. The Board wants the number of people being screened for benefits to be included in the monthly report, whether benefits are approved or denied.

Ms. Houtmeyers was praised about the Boston Globe Article, which featured all the good work done by her and her staff at St. Mary's Center for Women and Children.

There was a discussion regarding the substance abuse epidemic, and scheduled Opioid Presentation in Watertown on January 26, 2016. Ms. Braun will attend the presentation.

The next Board of Health Meeting's are scheduled for February 10th, 2016 at 5:30 pm, and March 10, 2016 at 5:30 pm.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David B. Alper', with a stylized, looping flourish extending from the end of the signature.

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