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Board of Health Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2016

The June 20, 2016 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; Donna S. David, R.N., M.N., Vice Chair; Julie C. Lemay, M.P.H., Member; Angela Braun, R.S., Director; Maria Reddington, Clerk. Also present for part of the Meeting were approximately 65 members of the public (see sign in sheet); Ms. Natalie Miller, Tobacco Control Program Coordinator; Mr. Sahid Tai of A & R Market; Mr. Fuad Mukarker of The Zaytoun Market.

The Public Hearing of the Off Leash Permit Program (the "Program") was called to order at 5:31 pm by Dr. David B. Alper. Dr. Alper introduced Board of Health Members and Health Department Staff. Dr. Alper explained the purpose of the Hearing was for Members to receive comment from the public to aid Members in their consideration of the future of the Program. Public participants were asked to state their name and address. Participants who wished to remain anonymous were asked to email or call the Health Department office directly to file their thoughts. Following are public comments:

- Resident of 223 Winter Street asked what the genesis of the meeting was. Dr. Alper replied it was not 1 incident, rather a venue to hear public comment.
- Resident of 59 Louise Road said Belmont does the program best. She is a 7.5 year permit holder and it provides communal spirit for her.
- Resident of 26 Vincent Avenue said the program is not good. Rudeness, pestering of children, unclear rules of the program, her children have now grown to be afraid of dogs, some permit holders have a sense of entitlement.
- Resident of unknown address said there are two kinds of dog owners, responsible and not responsible. Please don't penalize the responsible dog owners.
- Resident of 87 Beech Street agrees with both sides, she had dogs that chased soccer balls, but wonders if an enclosed space is large enough for the dogs.
- Resident of 13 Walnut Street does not want enclosed space for dogs, used to live in a Town that had one. Loves the Belmont program, but there are no clear rules stated and had a difficult time navigating the Program as a new resident. There are no signs.
- Resident of 92 Hull Street has children and dogs and believes in the health benefits of dog ownership. Resident shared a story of how other dog owners helped the Resident socialize a rescue dog, and now enjoys a relaxed dog. Leashed dogs equals leash aggression. Enclosed space is not enough room but good for those that like it. Signage is important, which should specify who to call in certain situations, also need identifiable tags.
- Resident of Edward Street suggests the Program be hours specific.
- Resident of Gilbert Road said signage is needed, rules need to be shared, she didn't know about the program, also identifiable tags are needed.
- Resident of 38 Unity Avenue said she is passionate about the Program, it was imperative her Labrador was exercised 2+ hours per day, dedicated space not desirable, need

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signage, and don't limit Program to Belmont residents as the City of Cambridge policy offends her.

- Resident of Watertown said she would pay extra money for a permit, it is a wonderful Program as it is.
- Resident of 59 Louise Road said ACO John Maguranis has advised if there is a dog harassing others, Belmont Police should be called. Need signage.
- Resident of 23 King Street said humans also leave messes after games, but doesn't think Belmont should ban sports. Everyone should be more responsible and respectful of the parks.
- Resident of 82 Palfrey Road said there is a problem with enforcement of the Program rules, and suggested Belmont Police foot patrol the parks.
- Resident of 145 Brookside Avenue was a soccer coach for 12 years in Belmont and only recalls 2 or 3 times that dog waste was a problem during a game. Feels that some are not following the rules of the Program during recreational games, perhaps signage and advertising the Program would be helpful. Resident feels the Program is fantastic.
- Resident of 34 Slade Street is a 3 year permit holder but did not know the rules concerning no off leash during games, need more and better education.
- Resident of Upland Road supports literature when applying for a permit, as well as signage.
- Resident of Trapelo Road owns a dog that was a problem dog, so she did not bring the dog to the parks off leash until it was rehabilitated. The dog now has socialization skills. Need signage, also make available the soccer schedules.
- Resident of Springfield Street asked if there has been further discussion to have a dedicated dog park, other communities have dog parks. He also said Belmont had a dog park committee several years ago, chaired by a Belmont attorney.
- Resident of Lexington Street said she does not want to transport her dog to a dog park located in another area of Town. She wants access to neighborhood parks.
- Resident of 51 Berwick Street said he has never seen a problem with bad dog behavior at the Grove Street Park.
- Resident of Worcester Street said the goose poop problem is better because of the Program.
- Resident of 8 Vincent Avenue said there should be more information and signage for children.
- A Resident of Stanley Road and owner of a pet sitting business said dogs need to be with dogs.
- Resident of Alma Avenue said dog tags should be issued, literature should be available with each permit renewal, and permit holders should be meeting with ACO John more often.
- Resident of Harriett Avenue and former Parks Supervisor stressed the importance of safety first, and suggested fenced in spaces. He also said people are planting on Town owned land.

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- Resident of Foster Road told a story of her now retired certified therapy dog became well socialized because of the Program.
- Resident of Livermore Road said notice about this Meeting was the first time he heard about the Program.
- Dr. Alper suggested a teaching opportunity for children to learn to be with dogs. A Resident of 39 Walnut Street and the Owner of Pet-Estrian Services volunteered to be the teachers.
- Dr. Alper also encouraged non-supporters of the Program to email or call Angela Braun, Health Director.
- Resident of Prince Street suggested permit holders support ACO John by having peer Marshalls, and support Town efforts.
- Ms. Donna David agrees with this concept, ambassadorship should continue.
- Resident asked where the permit money goes, and Dr. Alper answered to general funds, and to help offset the cost of ACO John so non permit folks don't have to pay.
- Resident of Grove Street said she has no children but pays for schools with her taxes.

The Public Hearing concluded at 6:30 pm.

The May 11, 2016 Meeting Minutes were approved by a vote of 3-0, after the addition of the following sentences:

- Board members suggested Ms. O'Brien Cushman direct Off Leash Permit Program concerns to Health Department staff.
- Health Department will not host a table at Town Day this year.

The Public Hearing for A & R Market was called to order at 6:33 pm. Ms. Braun provided a summary of the violation, a Tobacco Sale to Persons Under the Minimum Legal Sales Age, noting this was the second violation within 24 months. Ms. Natalie Miller also added the tobacco sale was made to a 17 year old person, and their identification was not verified. Mr. Sahid Tai, owner of A & R Market, told the Board he has owned the store for 10+ years, and the employee who sold the tobacco product is a nice person who was having a bad day and made a mistake, never sold to an underage person before this incident. Mr. Tai told the Board he displays signs on his cash register to remind the public of the legal age to purchase tobacco products, to which Dr. Alper said most underage folks will ignore the sign. Dr. Alper continued to remind Mr. Tai that underage persons know which stores to gravitate to and his establishment has had two violations of the Regulation Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products. The Board voted 3 to 0 for a 7 day suspension to sell tobacco products at A & R Market. Mr. Tai told the Board he will lose a lot of business as result of the 7 day suspension. The Public Hearing concluded at 6:48 pm.

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The Public Hearing for The Zaytoun Market was called to order at 6:49 pm. Ms. Braun provided a summary of the violation, a Tobacco Sale to Persons Under the Minimum Legal Sales Age, noting this was the second violation of this type within 4 months. Mr. Fuad Mukarker, owner of The Zaytoun Market, told Board members he takes full responsibility for the violation. He also explained he has been in business for 12+ years and is always in compliance with the Health Department. The new employee who allowed the sale of a tobacco product to an underage person was in the process of being trained, and was told to always verify identification. Mr. Mukarker provided a handout of a new POS system he would be installing, which will not allow the sale of tobacco until confirmation of legal sales age. He also suggested to the Board that the Town should consider fining the employee who made the sale, rather than the establishment owner. Dr. Alper said it is the business owner's responsibility to insure compliance of the Tobacco Sales Regulations, and reminded Mr. Mukarker of the establishment's close proximity to the public high school. Mr. Mukarker apologized for the incident, and assured Board Members the new employee is doing very well and he continues to take steps to eliminate these mistakes. Ms. Lemay appreciated Mr. Mukarker's positive efforts to prevent future underage sales.

The Board voted 3 to 0 for a 7 day suspension to sell tobacco products at The Zaytoun Market. The Public Hearing concluded at 7:14 pm.

Dr. Alper wants to revisit the fine structure as currently written in the Regulation Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products, to allow establishment owner's an opportunity to install identification checking devices. Ms. Miller will provide feedback of the basic reliability and cost of devices.

The Receipts report was reviewed. Ms. Lemay noted the recent percolation tests were not included on the Report. Ms. Braun said she was awaiting applications from contractors.

The Director's report was reviewed:

Loading Dock has applied for outdoor seating at Selectmen's office;

A request for a day camp scholarship for a Belmont resident, to be paid from the Youth and Family Services Grant account;

Concord Avenue farmer's market sale of eggs and confirmation from Angela that the sale of same is approved;

Wesley and David will be inspecting the majority of day camps this year;

The State Department of Public Safety is tasked with evaluation of camp apparatus;

The Underwood Pool water appeared to be turbid at first inspection, but the pool consultant was called in and water appeared clearer, and cracks in the pool repaired;

The Ohlin's Bakery matter is pending, as everyone is pointing fingers regarding liability;

Linda's Donuts inspections have improved, and Angela and/or Wesley will conduct another inspection in July, hopefully before the next Board Meeting. Dr. Alper suggested closing the establishment for a thorough cleaning if the next inspection is unsatisfactory.

Angela is meeting with Dr. Orr and the Cambridge Savings Bank Manager concerning a rodent matter at 18 Moore Street.

Angela attended a MA Health Officer Association educational meeting concerning the Zika virus. Dr. DeMaria was a keynote speaker.

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Contractors at 504 Concord Avenue inquired about connection to the town sewer via a neighbor's connection, for a newly constructed bath house.

There was a brief discussion about flu clinic scheduling, and question if the clinics are being held too early. Ms. Lemay said this past flu season spike occurred in March.

Ms. Braun and Board members remarked about Janet Amdur's successful year of campaigns and programs.

The Memorial Ceremony for Veterans' held on June 18th was nice, with approximately 50 people in attendance.

Dr. Alper said the Gun Buy Back day was well attended, 18 Belmont guns were collected, with approximately 65 guns total collected.

The Assistant Director's report was reviewed:

Phinix Grill and Number One Taste had a number of critical violations to correct following routine food inspections.

Routine tobacco compliance checks resulted in violation of the Regulation Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products by 5 establishments.

The Disease and Public Health Nurse reports were reviewed, noting David Neylon's efficient flu vaccine report for the CHNA grant.

The Animal Control report was reviewed, noting replacement of the ACO van was approved for fiscal year 2017.

There was a question concerning Starbuck's moving next to Moozy's during Cushing Square construction. Health Department staff has not received a Plan Review Application to date.

The Youth and Family Services report was reviewed:

Belmont Media Center will film the Hidden In Plain Sight Teenage Bedroom, which will depict what a teenage substance user bedroom might look like. The Alper Family has generously donated the filming of a bedroom in their home.


The Boys Group was a success, meeting each week from October through May.

The Veterans' Services report was reviewed noting the progress of the Eagle Scout project to identify veteran gravesites.

The next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2016 at 5:30 pm.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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