

2016 SEP 15 AM 9:27

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2016

The July 11, 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; Wesley Chin, M.P.H., Assistant Director; Maria Reddington, Clerk. Also present for part of the Meeting were Franklin Tucker, Editor of The Belmontonian; Ellen O'Brien Cushman, Town Clerk; Mary Bradley, Recreation Commission Member; John Maguranis, Animal Control Officer; Abigail Atkins, Summer Environmental Health Intern.

The Town Sewer Connection request at 25 Somerset Street was approved by a vote of 3-0.

The June 20, 2016 Meeting Minutes were approved by a vote of 3-0.

Dr. Alper announced Board of Health members would discuss policy recommendations for the Off Leash Permit Program. He provided a brief history of the Program, noting it started as an effort to deter geese from the high school fields. The Program has grown as result of Recreation Department efforts.

Julie C. Lemay, M.P.H., Member, offered the following comments concerning the Program:

- Violation issues and reporting of same needs to be addressed.
- Improve communication.
- Post rules/signage at each park entrance.
- Post phone numbers.
- Issue tags/collars to identify dogs.
- Provide a Program brochure to be included with the annual census and/or annual pet licensing.
- Majority of public comment received June 20, 2016 did not approve of a dedicated off leash dog park.
- Set off leash hours.
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Donna S. David, R.N., M.N., Vice Chair, offered the following comments concerning the Program:

- Education concerning the Program is needed.
- Simple signage at each park.
- Town-wide distribution of a Program brochure.
- Limit the Program to Belmont residents.
- No waste bags at the parks, it is dog owner's responsibility to provide these and dispose of waste properly.
- No fenced in areas.
- Understands the sense of community dog owner's shared at the June 20th meeting.
- Is there a liability concern if children meet dogs during a formal educational opportunity?

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- Need an article to newspaper, online, media center.
- Let folks know they should call police if being harassed by a dog.
- Recreation and DPW Departments address trash concerns, i.e. empty barrels more frequently, encourage sports teams and dog owners to clean up.
- Online sports schedule.
- Close fields when they are wet.
- Increase foot patrol by BPD, especially during peak times.
- Is it possible to permit every other year? John Maguranis prefers yearly permitting, to allow him to communicate new rules, etc.
- Likes educational initiative, use permit fees to support training.

David B. Alper, D.P.M., Chair, offered the following comments concerning the Program:

- Was in favor of one dog park(s) until he heard public participation comment at the June 20th meeting.
- Need to maintain a 50 foot boundary at tot lots.
- Designate one park as a No Dog Park.
- Designate specific off leash times, i.e. not during soccer games especially at Town Field.
- Permit holders and others need guidelines concerning the Program.
- Simple signs at each park entrance, to include a website and office phone number.
- Identifiable tags/collars, cost of same to be paid by dog owners enrolled in the Program, as taxpayers should not pay for this cost.
- Need a Program brochure.
- Neutral concerning having waste bags available at the parks.
- Need increased trash monitoring by DPW.
- A leash must be in the owner's hand.
- Educational programs are a must especially for children/dogs, and Recreation Dept. should set this up. A trainer must be present.

Ms. Lemay suggested an alternative to designating a park a No Dog Park - allow the dogs on the park for a brief time, maybe between 6 am to 7 am. Dr. Alper responded the more exceptions to the Program, the more complicated the Program becomes, and strongly feels a no dog zone is needed.

Ms. Braun said ACO John Maguranis does an amazing job handling the program. She referenced General bylaw Article 19 from 1998, as well as a memo to Mr. McKinney (then Recreation Director) whereby reference is made to only two parks which allowed off leash dogs. In April 2005 there was a second memo to Mr. McKinney regarding Health Department's concern of additional fields being used for off leash purposes. Both memos were authored by Ms. Donna Moulthrop, then Health Director. Ms. Braun said there are pros and cons to all ideas for the Off Leash Permit Program, but feels dog parks are the safest environment. Set hours, identifiable tags, signage, and permits are important to the Program.

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The Recreation Commission should set forth a presentation to the Board of Health. Dr. Alper said the Board of Health should offer a set of suggestions to the Recreation Commission.

Ms. Ellen O'Brien Cushman, speaking as Town Clerk, said park enclosures would be great if there were funds available for fencing. She also said her office wants to be involved in the process for any changes to the Off Leash Permit Program. She is in support of identifiable tags being worn by permitted dogs.

Dr. Alper said guidelines are needed: off leash hours, allowed parks, and identifiable tags to be worn. He also suggested a bylaw change may be needed. He said parameters are needed, as John Maguranis will not be Belmont's Animal Control Officer forever. Dr. Alper then outlined next steps concerning the Off Leash Permit Program:

- Draft a letter of recommendations to the Recreation Commission.
- Board of Health members to attend a Recreation Commission meeting.
- Issuance of identifiable tags, beginning the 2017 permit year.
- Signage at parks to include website and contact phone numbers for further information.
- Designate Winn Brook as a No Dog Park.
- Post set hours to exclude off leash dogs to coincide with youth sports schedule.
- Set up education programs.
- Develop a Program brochure, post on Town website, social media, local newspaper, etc.
- Recommend the creation of an Off Leash Permit Program Committee under the Recreation Department.

John Maguranis said as a result of the Off Leash Permit Program, there are no geese in the parks. Donna David said a problem continues at the High School fields, and asked if there are associated illnesses. Geese management is the school department's responsibility, but is there a public health hazard angle? Donna will contact the school nurse in September.

John Maguranis, Animal Control Officer, made a request to Board members to carry a firearm, as a result of a recent shooting of an ACO in another state. Dr. Alper said it would be important to grant permission to carry a firearm to John Maguranis individually, and not to grant permission to the Animal Control Officer position. Communication with Chief McLaughlin will be necessary. Donna David is in support of John's request. John will provide additional information to Board members. The discussion will continue as an agenda item in September.

Board members welcomed Abbie Atkins, Summer Environmental Health Intern. Abbie provided a brief overview of her past experiences and her interest in public health.

The Receipts report was reviewed, and a request was made to remove the "Frozen Dessert Permit" item from the list.

The Director's report was reviewed. Angela Braun provided details surrounding Red Sox Summer Camp, and no permit issued prior to the start of the camp; there have been no

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complaints received by Health Department staff concerning the public pools. Julie Lemay talked about personal flotation devices (PFD's) not being allowed in the pool. Ms. Lemay said she spoke to Steve Hughes, Director of MA Environmental Health Community Sanitation, who recommends the use of PFD's. Dr. Alper said a letter in support of allowing PFD's should be sent to the Recreation Commission, and signed by Board of Health members. Ms. Lemay will draft the letter; Linda's Donuts is closed for vacation, and Health Department staff will conduct a re-inspection of the establishment on or about July 20th; the house at 55 Concord Avenue is scheduled for demolition; the meeting concerning rodent control at 18 Moore Street was successful; Angela offered thanks for sponsorship of a summer camp scholarship, to be paid from the Youth and Family Services Gift Account; National Purple Heart Day observances will be August 7th at 1:00 pm at the Belmont Public Library; Meet Belmont is scheduled for August 30th; Dr. Alper suggested a magnetic sign be placed on the new Health Department vehicle for identification purposes.

The Assistant Director's report was reviewed. Wesley Chin provided details about improvements observed at the most recent inspection at Number One Taste. Mr. Sy will be required to attend the September meeting in the event the re-inspection to be conducted in August is unsatisfactory; staff received a complaint concerning self-service slush at LC Variety, which was addressed by Wesley; the Substance Abuse Intern, Kelsey Prendergast, is developing an online campaign for Belmont, Donna David asked Wesley to give Kelsey her email contact information for any assistance she may need.

The Disease report was reviewed, with no diseases to report for the period. Flu Mist will not be available for flu clinic distribution, as it has been found to be ineffective against the flu.

The Animal Control report was reviewed.

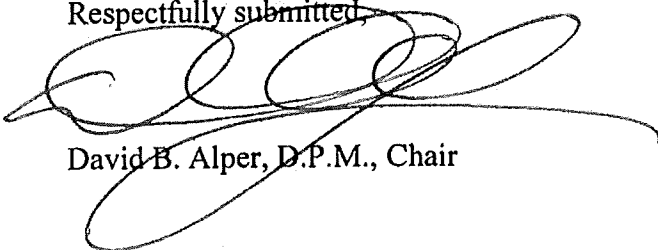
The Veterans' Services report was reviewed.

A telephone inquiry was made by Representative Dave Rogers' office relating to Belmont's policy for patron seating in bakeries.

The next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2016 at 5:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

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