

Board of Health Meeting Minutes 2019 FEB -4 PM 2:41
December 6, 2018

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 5:37 pm by Donna S. David, R.N., M.N., Chair.

Those present were Donna S. David, R.N., M.N., Chair; Julie C. Lemay, M.P.H., Vice Chair; Stephen M. Fiore, Esq., Member (arrived at 5:49 pm); Wesley B. Chin, Health Director (arrived at 6:14 pm); Maria Reddington, Clerk.

Also present for part of the meeting was Dr. David B. Alper.

The November 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes were approved by a vote of 2-0.

The Receipts report was reviewed. Maria Reddington told Board members the Annual Dumpster Permits issued to food establishments will be renewed in combination with their Food Permits in May of each year.

The Food Inspection report was reviewed. Jim Feeney, Food Inspector, reports overall satisfaction with the sanitary condition of El Centro.

The Disease and Nurse's report were reviewed. Board members appreciated David Neylon's report concerning Romaine lettuce.

The Youth and Family Services report was reviewed, noting the number of active housing cases.

Dr. David Alper reminded meeting attendees that no money was budgeted for fiscal year 2019 for the Youth Coordinator's program efforts. Dr. Alper suggested some funds from the Health Department's Outreach Worker Gift Account could be used for FY19 programming.

The Veterans' Services Officer report was reviewed. Comment was made that Bob continues to make good use of the increased work hours approved in FY19.

Attendance at the 23rd Annual Massachusetts Association of Health Board (MAHB) Fall Certificate Program was discussed. Mr. Stephen Fiore provided a summary of the presentations he attended:

- Since Mr. Fiore is a new Board member, much of his time was spent at the Orientation presentation.
- Mr. Fiore is very impressed with MAHB, and the fascinating history of municipal health boards.
- He learned Health departments face many funding challenges, perhaps due to the public's lack of understanding as to what Health departments are doing.
- Mr. Fiore also attended the presentation about medical and adult use of cannabis, presented by Cheryl Sbarra, JD, Senior Staff Attorney.

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Ms Donna David provided a summary of the presentations she attended:

- A presentation by Gary Menin concerning rodent control. Mr. Menin encouraged Boards of Health to adopt regulations banning the use of unsafe pesticides, as well as enforce current regulations to requiring clean-up of dumpster areas. Also, consult with John Maguranis, ACO, regarding his thoughts on the feasibility of attracting owls by installing owl boxes around Joey's Park. Owls are a known raptor that will aid in controlling the rodent population.
- A youth health and violence presentation – Donna shared materials from this presentation with Marisa Melanson, Youth Commission Coordinator.
- A presentation about medical and adult use of cannabis – pet stores are selling for pets and humans – we should confirm what is being sold in Belmont and build policy for licensing.

Dr. David Alper shared his concerns with Board of Health members:

1. Presently, Belmont has no regulations limiting the sale of drug paraphernalia in retail establishments. Board of Health or Board of Selectmen should draft and adopt a regulation in this regard. Board of Health has less rules for enacting regulations. Check Town of Arlington/Brookline for regulations adopted by them. Ms. David agreed these regulations are needed.
2. Dr. Alper reported there are 88 Massachusetts health boards who have endorsed a letter to Governor Baker concerning fracked gas infrastructure ("FGI") and public health concerns. Dr. Alper met with T. Stephen Jones, MD, who has authored a number of articles concerning FGI. Dr. Alper suggested Board members may want to further discuss the issue at a future meeting.
3. Dr. Alper offered a brief history of the Youth Commission. Mr. Fiore asked why the Commission terminated. Dr. Alper said lack of volunteers and funding caused the Commission to end. Dr. Alper suggests the newly formed Youth Commission should focus on middle schoolers and be complimentary to programming offered by the Recreation and School Departments. The Commission should include Belmont residents, students, and a non-voting member such as a police liaison. Commission members must be CORI checked. Youth Commission Coordinator should provide a report to Board of Health members.

The Director's report was reviewed with the following topics discussed:

- El Centro is moving in the right direction with regard to the sanitary condition of the establishment. Mr. Islam continues to benefit from the services of a food consultant, and a new pest control company.
- Staff observed a number of critical violations at the Belmont High School kitchen inspection. A number of the violations related to the condition of the facility, and the Facilities Department has been notified of the problems. The Director of Facilities will notify the Health Department of the progress of items needing repair. A re-inspection will occur after winter break.

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- Tropical Diner, a proposed food establishment taking over the former Phinix Grill at 628 Trapelo Road, will submit a plan review soon.
- The required 5 day notice of a Public Hearing for Condemnation at 160 Claflin Street has been delivered. The Public Hearing is scheduled for December 12, 2018 at 11:00 am in Conference Room 13 of the Homer Building.
- The re-inspection of the property referred to as Case #2 is scheduled for December 7, 2018.
- The new Assistant Health Director, Diana Ekman, will begin employment January 2, 2019.

The next Board of Health Meetings are scheduled for January 23, 2019 at 5:30 pm (this date was changed to January 28, 2019 at 5:30 pm), and February 25, 2019 at 5:30 pm.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna S. David

Donna S. David, Chair