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Board of Health Meeting Minutes June 30, 2015

The June 30, 2015 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; Wesley Chin, Assistant Director; Maria Reddington, Clerk.

Members of the public present were Mr. Franklin Tucker and Mr. Raffi Mansikian.

The May 28, 2015 Meeting Minutes were approved, as amended, by a vote of 3-0.

Angela Braun, Director, was nominated as East Middlesex Mosquito Control Commissioner representing Belmont by a vote of 3-0.

The Receipts and Budget reports were reviewed. The Board requests the end of fiscal year Budget report be presented at each May meeting, in preparation of the fiscal year closing.

Board Members welcomed Ms. Adel Donegan, Owner of Vintage Tea and Cake, 129 Belmont Street. Ms. Donegan provided the Board a brief history of her business. Ms. Donegan envisions retail sales in the near future, and will provide the Health Department a plan of same. The Board reminded Ms. Donegan that Health Department staff is available for inquiries, and wished her well with her new business.

John Maguranis, Animal Control Officer, provided the Board an overview of the Off Leash Permit assessment form he uses for each Applicant. Part of the assessment includes education to the owner, specifically being aware of recreational activities in progress on the fields, maintaining a mandatory distance away from tot lots, and disposing all dog waste. There was a brief discussion concerning fees charged by the Recreation Department for the Off Leash Permit, and ideas to spend a portion of the fees collected on the program, including waste dispensers and group dog training. John also expressed his support of this important program, noting better behavior by dogs regularly exercised.

Mr. Raffi Mansikian provided John an overview of a recent incident involving 3 unruly dogs at the Town Field on Beech Street. Mr. Mansikian made note that the owners of the offending dogs were unresponsive to his request to keep their dogs under control. Mr. Mansikian asked John how an incident such as this should be handled. John said either Animal Control or Belmont Police need to be contacted. Donna David suggested educational information be posted on the Animal Control webpage to include steps the public can follow concerning situations involving unruly dogs. Dr. Alper also asked John to schedule a presentation at an upcoming Belmont Police Department staff meeting, to offer tips on how to handle this type of situation.

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There was a suggestion to ask the Recreation Department to use a portion of the Off Leash Permit funds to remove the geese waste at the high school field.

The Director's Report was reviewed. Questions relating to Mobile Food regulations were discussed, and Angela Braun told Board members the current regulations are good. Green burial was discussed, noting the Belmont Cemetery Committee regulations require metal casket liners so that the caskets do not create a possible sink hole. Health Department staff will continue research on this subject. Also discussed was the PGA golf tournament, Farmer's Market portable toilet facilities and handwashing stations, the keeping of bees, arbovirus weekly reports, and yearly personnel reviews.

The Assistant Director's Report was reviewed, with discussions concerning several food establishment refrigeration issues, pool inspections completed, Wesley's research to answer a resident's inquiry about biotechnology regulations, numerous rat complaints, meeting the new Tobacco Control Program Coordinator Ms. Natalie Miller, and the roll out of online tobacco permit applications.

The Animal, Veteran's, Disease and Youth and Family reports were reviewed.

The next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2015.

The Board of Health Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully-submitted,

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