

**CITY OF GLOUCESTER
Board of Health
Minutes of the Meeting
January 3, 2019
5:30 p.m.
City Hall Annex
3 Pond Road
Gloucester, MA 01930**

Board members present: Chairperson: Dr. Richard Sagall; Vice–Chairperson: Robert Harris; Claudia Schweitzer; Frederick Cowan; and Joe Rosa. Present from the Health Department: Health Director: Karin Carroll; Assistant Director: Max Schenk.

The meeting started at 5:30 p.m.

This meeting was recorded by audio in accordance with State Open Meeting Law.

PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATION

Patricia Pierce of 15C Millbrook Park, Rockport appeared before the board. She stated that she is a site analyst and gave a background of the topography of West Gloucester. She stated that the area is a very sensitive area and she would like it to be designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). She stated that it is critical to the area that blasting and fill be limited. She stated that she is very concerned with the proposed Kerrigan cluster housing plan. She stated that their plans include deliberate deceptions.

Carrie Fryklund of 250 Concord Street appeared before the board. She stated that she is a direct abutter to the proposed Kerrigan project. She stated that she has a very diverse ecosystem on her property. She stated that she has a video that she would like to send to Board members. She stated that she has a letter from a land surveyor that states that the whole property is undevelopable because of the bodies of water, ledge, and several streams that are present.

Mr. Schenk stated that he will take any information that they want to share and add it to a file so when the issue comes before them and plans are provided by the proponent they will have the information in the file and then the Board of Health can view it.

Ms. Pierce stated that she would like a longer time to present more information.

Mr. Schenk responded that at the time the Kerrigan project came before the Health Department about a year ago, there was an initial review and there was nothing to bring to the Board of Health at that time for their review because only basic information was needed and they have not heard anything since. He stated that the time for this process is when the proponent comes forward with a new plan and that plan will go to a third party review, and that reviewer's

comments along with the plans will be brought to the Board of Health for their review for further comments and questions and then the public will have a full opportunity to comment. He stated that to do anything more puts the Board of Health at legal risk because the proponent does not have the ability at this time to comment.

Ms. Schweitzer stated that the Board of Health is not unwelcoming to *Ms. Pierce*, but there are certain procedures that the Board of Health need to follow.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by *Ms. Schweitzer* to approve the Gloucester Board of Health minutes of the meeting of December 6th, 2018 as written. **Seconded** by *Mr. Harris*. **CARRIED**.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no "Standing Committee Reports".

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion Regarding Somerville Restrictions on E-cigarette Sales-

Ms. Carroll stated the City of Somerville has become the first municipality in Massachusetts to restrict the sales of e-cigarettes in all stores that are open to youths under the age of twenty-one. She stated that Gloucester's current policy is that flavored tobacco products must be sold in an adult only stores however electronic cigarettes, cigarettes (including menthol) can still be sold in any convenient store. She discussed some of the issues around e-cigarette sales and Juul products. She stated that there have been some online sale violations and if anyone has any websites that are selling to minors to contact the Health Department with the information. The board agreed to have the Tobacco Control and Prevention Director keep the board apprised of the issue.

OLD BUSINESS

Review of Draft Letter to Governor Regarding Natural Gas Infrastructure-

Mr. Rosa submitted the draft letter to Governor Baker regarding natural gas infrastructure to board members.

The board agreed that the letter was well-written and thanked *Mr. Rosa* for drafting the letter.

Amanda Nash of 8 Exchange Street appeared before the board. She stated that the letter is not everything that they had hoped for but she likes it.

Marcia Hart of 2 Fremont Street appeared before the board. She stated that the letter is short of what she had hoped for. She stated that there are still many issues that have not be addressed.

MOTION by Mr. Harris that the Gloucester Board of Health approve the letter drafted by Mr. Rosa, addressed to Governor Baker, stating that the Board agrees that increase gas infrastructure should be considered a last resort in light of global climate change concerns and there should be a renewed emphasis on repairing the existing infrastructure. **Seconded** by Ms. Schweitzer. **CARRIED.**

MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented by Karin Carroll and Max Schenk

The following "Monthly Report" was given to Board members.

[December Monthly Report](#)

Ms. Carroll stated that they did a press release in conjunction with Councilor Cox on the plastic bag and polystyrene ban as well as the no smoking on public beaches and parks ban that went into effect on January 1, 2019. She stated that there were some concerns but there has been mostly been positive feedback. She stated that they are looking at signage for parks and beaches and smoking is not banned in parking lots.

Ms. Carroll stated that they went on a site visit to the recreational and medical marijuana facility which they are hoping to open in February. She stated that she did bring the board's concerns to them. She stated that they are working with Chief McCarthy on line and parking issues.

Ms. Carroll stated that the Council on Aging has been exploring transportation options with CATA. She stated that the people involved with the Mass in Motion program are interested in using the bus to transport seniors to yoga classes, fresh food choices, etc.

Ms. Carroll stated that there have been some complaints regarding the plastic bag ban.

Ms. Carroll stated that she, Ms. Hiland, and an intern visited the State House to Senator Lovely's commission on postpartum depression. She stated that they were asked to present and they did a great job.

Ms. Carroll stated that the new dental center manager, Diana Maloney started a couple weeks ago. She stated that there are concerns about revenue and expenses. She stated that they had a surprise site visit by the State and they are working on some housekeeping issues that were brought up and the State will be back.

Ms. Carroll stated that a small grant was awarded to the Health Department by Lahey to continue interim funding for travel vouchers to detox beds.

Mr. Schenk stated that there have been some bumps in the new online permitting system but in general it has been moving forward and has benefited the Health Department. He stated that the question has come up where they ask what organizations are charged fees and which ones

are not charged fees. He stated that he would like to add this to the agenda for the next Board of Health meeting.

The board discussed the issue and agreed that unless it is a City entity then a fee should be charged across the board.

Mr. Schenk stated that they have four candidates ready to schedule interviews for the Food Inspector position.

Mr. Schenk stated that he has been researching the Jones River pollution concerns. He stated that he has been working with the Division of Marine Fisheries and the Shellfish Constable to do some testing and the pollution numbers have gone down significantly. He stated that they will continue to test the area for pollution.

Mr. Schenk stated that he will send out a notice on the Septic Review Subcommittee on how the Health Department deals with obstinate folks who do not want to comply with enforcement.

CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS

Next Regular Monthly Meeting Board of Health- The next Board of Health monthly meeting will be on February 7, 2019 at the CATA Training Room at 5:30 p.m.

MOTION by Mr. Rosa to adjourn.
Seconded by Mr. Harris. **CARRIED.**
MEETING ADJOURNED – 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by:

Richard Sagall, Chairperson

Documents Referenced:
January 2019 Board of Health Agenda
December 6, 2018 Board of Health Minutes
December 2018 Monthly Department Reports