

**CITY OF GLOUCESTER  
Board of Health  
Minutes of the Meeting  
June 5, 2014  
CATA Training Room  
3 Pond Road  
Gloucester, MA 01930**

14 AUG 27 AM 8:49  
CITY OF GLOUCESTER, MA

Board members present: Chairperson: Dr. Richard Sagall, Vice-Chairperson: Robert Harris, Frederick Cowan, Joe Rosa, and Claudia Schweitzer. Present from the Health Department: Public Health Director: Noreen Burke; Manager of Environmental Health: Max Schenk; and Public Health Nurse, Lianne Cook.

**PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATION**

There was no "Public Oral Communication".

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** by Ms. Schweitzer to approve the Gloucester Board of Health minutes of the meeting of May 1, 2014 as written. **Seconded** by Mr. Harris. **CARRIED.**

**MOTION** by Mr. Cowan to change the order of business. **Seconded** by Mr. Harris. **CARRIED.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**TOBACCO CONTROL UPDATES: EMERGENCE OF VAPING ESTABLISHMENTS, AND TOBACCO 21 JOYCE REDFORD, DIRECTOR, NORTH SHORE/CAPE ANN TOBACCO ALCOHOL PREVENTION PROGRAM –**

*Joyce Redford*, MPH, director of the North Shore/Cape Ann Tobacco Alcohol prevention Program appeared before the board. She stated that there has been an inquiry regarding an opening of a vaping establishment in Gloucester. She gave board members an overview of vaping establishments. She stated that other communities do have regulations in place and she offered copies of those regulations to board members. She stated that their recommendations are to prohibit the mixing of liquids, restrict lounge areas, and place an age limit of 21 on the products. She stated that 20 communities have moved forward with not allowing anyone under 21 years of age to purchase any tobacco or vaping products. She stated that smoking at outdoor seating in restaurants has been an issue in Gloucester. *Mr. Schenk* stated that there was a complaint brought to the Health Department about an establishment that had tables on a sidewalk where a customer was smoking. *Ms. Redford* responded that the board currently does not have any regulations regarding outdoor smoking at establishments. The board agreed to have *Ms. Redford* provide some language for the board to review.

The board thanked *Ms. Redford* for her presentation.

**ARBOVIRUS SEASON 2014–**

The board welcomed Senator Tarr to the meeting.

*Ms. Burke* gave a brief overview the mosquito control district. She stated that it would cost the city \$87,000 a year for three years to join the district. She stated that mosquito borne diseases are a serious health issue.

**ARBOVIRUS SEASON 2014, CON'T**– *Ms. Burke* stated that they would like to have access to surveillance services so they can monitor and verify if there is a need to take further action in controlling the risk of mosquito borne diseases. She stated that the membership of the Northeast Mosquito Control Program does not allow for surveillance services only. She stated that they would like the assistance of Senator Tarr and Representative Ferrante regarding the issue.

*Mr. Rosa* stated that the \$87,000 provides for surveillance as well as spraying as needed. He stated that they would like to access more of an ala carte approach. *Ms. Schweitzer* stated that the first step is surveillance and they cannot just utilize the surveillance service.

*Senator Tarr* appeared before the board. He stated that the legislature delegation is happy to work with the board. He stated that they do have somewhat of an oversight role in the mosquito control district and he has worked with the mosquito programs in the past.

The board discussed commercial testing and the issue of having only one lab for testing and what the city would do if mosquitoes were found carrying the disease in the city. *Senator Tarr* encouraged the board to seek out a device that does not use pesticides.

*Senator Tarr* stated that it would be helpful to have a subcommittee of the Board of Health to work with legislation and the mosquito district. *Mr. Rosa, Mr. Harris, and Mr. Cowan* agreed to work with the legislation on the issue.

*Senator Tarr* stated that he spoke to Representative Ferrante and she indicated that she would be happy to work with the board as well. He stated that the formal legislature session ends in July, though the informal session continues to meet, however any controversial matters need to be addressed before the end of July.

*Ms. Burke* commended the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Dr. Catherine Brown, and Dr. Al DeMaria for all their assistance.

The board thanked Senator Tarr for attending the meeting and for his assistance in the matter.

**FLOURIDATION OF COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY INITIAL DISCUSSION, TRACEY J. CHIANCOLA**–

*Larry Durkin*, the DPW Environmental Engineer appeared before the board. He gave board members an overview of fluoridation of the community water supply. He stated that in 2009 they upgraded the water treatment plants and at that time they switched from a hexafluorosilicic acid to a sodium fluoride compound. He stated that the sodium fluoride was a safer compound for the operators. He stated that there is also natural fluoride in the water. He stated that the current recommendation set forth by DEP is between 0.9 and 1.2 mg/l. He stated that naturally occurring fluoride in Gloucester is between 0.3 and 0.4 mg/l. He stated that the levels are closely regulated and monitored continuously by fluoride meters. He stated that they are also required by the State to test the distribution system and send the results of the testing to the State every month. He stated that they have a target concentration of 1.0 mg/l and they maintain that level. The EPA has an upper limit of 2 mg/l but they are bound within the state requirements. He stated that the upgrades to the control systems and the computers ensure that they system is tightly controlled. He stated that fluoride is added to water for oral health.

*Dr. Benjamin Polan* of the Children's Dental Health Center appeared before the board in favor of fluoridation of the community water supply. He stated that fluoride in the water has been identified as one of the top ten greatest public health actions in the past one hundred years. He stated that it does not prevent major decay but it does prevent insipid decay and makes developing teeth stronger. He stated that any dentist cannot say that they have not seen a significant decrease in insipid decay over the years

that have fluoride in water. He stated that the amount of fluoride that should be ingested a day is up to 1 mg per day. He stated that a lethal dose of fluoride is 5 grams, 5000 times the recommended dose. He stated that for fluoride to cause significant gastro effects someone would have to drink 500 liters of water. He stated that there are about 20-30 communities in Massachusetts that have voted to retain fluoride in their drinking water. He stated that the fact is that all the health benefits outweigh any possibility that it would be harmful. *Mr. Cowan* asked *Dr. Poland* how effective toothpaste alone is. *Dr. Poland* responded that fluoride in toothpaste only provides 10-20 percent of the fluoride needed and that is only if the toothpaste is swallowed. He stated that fluoride is only helpful in developing tooth enamel internally.

*Tracey Chiancola* of 47 River Road appeared before the board in opposition of fluoridation of the community water supply. She thanked the board for discussing the issue tonight. She stated that she sent board members a packet that included why two communities in Massachusetts chose to remove fluoride from the water supply. She stated that infants and children under two should not have fluoride. She stated that fluoride in water is not safe. She stated that 75% of European nations do not fluoridate their water. She stated that the Lancet reported this year that fluoride in water was dangerous. She stated that natural fluoride is different than the fluoride the city puts in the water.

*Karen Tysver*, 5 Broadway, Rockport in opposition of fluoridation of the community water supply. She stated that the EPA says that children under 2 years of age should not have any fluoride at all. She stated that the CDC states that ingesting fluoride does not work. She stated it is a civil rights issue; fluoride is a medicine that is being administered. She stated that tooth decay is a disease of poverty. *Chairperson Sagall* asked if it would be worse if the children in the inner cities were not getting any fluoride. *Ms. Tysver* responded no.

*Ms. Schweitzer* asked if *Ms. Tysver* and *Ms. Chiancola* had any scientific backgrounds. *Ms. Chiancola* responded that she did not and that she did her own research on the internet. *Ms. Tysver* responded that she is a licensed nurse.

*Dr. John Fisher* appeared before the board in favor of fluoridation of the community water supply. He stated that he has a private dental practice in Salem. He stated that he is the interim Chairperson for the Better Oral Health for Massachusetts Coalition. He stated that the coalition is a collaborative group of public health composed of physicians, dentists, and hygienists. He stated that he has seen devastating decay in communities that do not have fluoride in their community water. He stated that he is the past president of the Massachusetts Dental Society and one the things that they did was run a mobile access to care van. He stated that when the care van would travel to communities without fluoride in their water they would see devastating decay. He stated that preventive care is the most important. He stated that the World Health Organization initially recommended fluoridation of water in 1969 and reaffirmed it in 1994. He stated that the U.S. Surgeon General, Regina Benjamin officially endorsed fluoridation of water in 2013 and stated that it is one of the most effective choices that communities can make to prevent health problems while actually improving the health of their citizens. He shared a copy of a letter with the board from the deans of the Harvard Medical School, the Harvard School of Dental Medicine and the Harvard School of Public Health who all endorse the fluoridation of public water supplies. He stated that the people who suffer the most from lack of fluoride are the children. He stated that in 2008 the National Kidney Foundation issued a statement that there is insufficient evidence to recommend fluoride-free drinking water. He stated that there are no studies that show any effect on neuro-development or any other development disabilities or autism from fluoridation of water. He stated that there are no epidemiological studies that show that people who live in fluoridated areas have any greater health problems in any way than people who live in non-fluoridated areas.

*Barbara Ggall*, of 8 Atlantic Avenue of Rockport appeared before the board in opposition of fluoridation of the community water supply. She stated that she does not have a scientific background. She stated that in 2006 the National Resource Counsel stated that this was an area of serious concern and more studies should be done. She stated that fluoridated salt is a choice in Europe. She stated that there are 27 peer review studies worldwide, but they are not funded in the United States. She stated that the western parts of the United States have calcium fluoride and that is why they have less tooth decay.

*Dr. David Harrison*, of 220 Washington Street appeared before the board in favor of fluoridation of the community water. He stated that he has been practicing dentistry in Gloucester for 14 years and the rate of decay is unheard of and he cannot imagine what the children's teeth would look like if they took fluoride out of the water. He stated that he agrees with his colleagues. He stated that some of these studies that he is hearing from the opposition do not meet certain standards. He stated that for a child to reach toxic levels of fluoride they would have to drink 25 gallons of water a day.

*Allison Aiello* registered dental hygienist appeared before the board in favor of fluoridation of the community water. She stated that she has been practicing dental hygiene for more than 31 years. She stated that her mother gave her a fluoride tablet as a child and her siblings did not get the tablet and her siblings had mouthfuls of cavities and she one cavity in her entire life. She stated that the number one disease in America is dental decay. She stated that she has seen a huge decrease in the amount of cavities since the addition to fluoride in the community water. She stated that there are 65 years of facts and literature from the American Dental Association of that goes behind fluoridation.

*Michael Foley* of 376 Essex Avenue appeared before the board in opposition fluoridation of the community water. He stated that he is a retired mechanical engineer. He stated that he found no data between the reduction in cavities and fluoridation in water. He stated that he does not want to be given a medication that he did not ask for and that is what is happening to fluoridation in the water. He stated that he wants the board to look at the data and look at the personal end of it. *Mr. Rosa* asked *Mr. Foley* why he thinks so many science-driven public health organizations are so much in favor of fluoridation. *Mr. Foley* responded that he is not clear on that, but has not seen solid science on the issue.

*Leif Backlin*, owner of Harbor Cove Dental in Gloucester, appeared before the board in favor of fluoridation of the community water. He stated that he has a practice in Newburyport for 33 years and recently moved to Gloucester. He stated that he agrees with his colleagues. He stated fluoride is not a medicine; it is a naturally occurring substance in all waters. He stated that he can tell the children who have had fluoride from the children who have not.

Chairperson Sagall thanked the public for their input and stated the item will be on the agenda for the July 10, 2014 meeting.

## **MONTHLY REPORTS**

Presented by Noreen Burke, Max Schenk, and Llanne Cook

**MEASLES-** *Ms. Cook* reported that there was a measles alert issued by the State today due to the rise in reported cases. She stated that the 97% of the reported cases are from overseas travel exposure. She stated that 89% were unvaccinated or had an unknown vaccination status. She stated that there is a huge outbreak in the Philippines. She stated that most cases in the United States are in Ohio, California, and New York.

**RECREATIONAL CAMPS-** *Ms. Cook* reported that they have started inspections of the seven recreational camps in Gloucester.

**LYME DISEASE-** Ms. Cook reported that they have an interactive Lyme disease and tick display that has been developed for children and parents. She stated that are going to display it at the Farmer's Market and other areas in the city.

**SHINGLES PROGRAM-** Ms. Cook reported that the Shingles Program is being launched now. She stated that they are promoting the program through the Cape Ann Beacon and through the Good Morning Gloucester blog.

**CHICKEN REGULATIONS-** Mr. Schenk reported that the issue of chickens was brought up by City Council because of a resident who has a rooster which has caused some residents to complain. The board agreed to have Mr. Schenk work with the City Solicitor to draft fowl regulations.

**MASS IN MOTION-** Ms. Burke reported that she went before City Council with Steve Winslow tonight to speak on behalf of the Mass in Motion grant and to notify them that the funds for Mr. Winslow's position will run out in December. She stated that Mr. Winslow, Jesse Rinoso, the grant writer, and herself submitted a regional proposal to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health called Mass in Motion Cape Ann. She stated that they were not eligible to apply by themselves, so they applied collaboratively with Manchester, Essex, and Rockport.

**HEALTH GLOUCESTER COLLABORATIVE-** Ms. Burke commended the Healthy Gloucester Collaborative for an excellent site visit today with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in regards to the underage drinking grant.

**BUDGET-** Ms. Burke thanked Mr. Harris for attending the budget meeting with her. She stated that they want to stay level-funded and hold onto the resources that they have.

**PET WASTE-** Ms. Burke reported that the issue of pet waste is in the research stage. She stated that it is a high emotion issue. Ms. Schweitzer stated that carry-in and carry-out is an issue at the beaches as well.

**ANNUAL REPORT-** Ms. Burke reported that the Gloucester Daily Times had a nice blog about the annual report.

**NORTH SHORE HEALTH PROJECT-** Ms. Burke reported that she attended the North Shore Health Project event honoring Sefatia Romeo-Theken as the Health Activist of the Year.

**OPEN DOOR-** Ms. Burke reported that she attended the Open Door event and the event was well attended.

**ACTION SHELTER-** Ms. Burke reported that the hearing for the Action Shelter has been postponed and will be June 12, 2014 at 7 p.m.

**MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS-** Ms. Burke reported that if board members are members of the Medical Reserve Corps it makes them a more ready volunteer in the event of an emergency and urged them to submit their applications.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **WORKING SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE BOARD, BRIEFING UPDATES –**

**Children's Dental Center Planning** - Chairperson Sagall stated that they had a meeting planned on Monday but it had to be rescheduled due to illness.

Performance of Mandated Enforcement Services – Mr. Rosa stated that he, Ms. Cook, Mr. Cowan and Mr. Schenk had a meeting today regarding "Performance of Mandated Enforcement Services". He stated that they reviewed the summary provided by the Department of Public Health. Mr. Schenk stated that they are going to look at the gap analysis and how they match with the broader organizations.

Local Public Health Accreditation Discussion – Ms. Schweitzer stated that they are going to meet in June regarding the "Local Public Health Accreditation" discussion.

**661 WESTERN AVENUE (MAP 199, LOT 24) – Property Owner: Peter and Laverne Saputo**

*Update re: failure to comply with septic upgrade order dated 11/6/2013*

Mr. Schenk stated that Ms. Kirchner will be in Housing Court in Lawrence on June 11, 2014 to file a request for a criminal complaint against the owners of 661 Western Avenue. He stated that if the owners do not show a capias (bench warrant) will be issued and the sheriff will pick them up until they are able to go to court. If they do show and there are grounds for a criminal complaint then a hearing will be scheduled for Salem.

**13 CEDARWOOD ROAD (MAP 232, LOT 30) – Property owners: Robert and Patricia Smith**

*Update on Enforcement Order Compliance – Requirement to Upgrade Failed System*

Mr. Schenk stated that Ms. Kirchner will file a request for a criminal complaint for 13 Cedarwood Road on June 11, 2014 when she is at the Lawrence Courthouse.

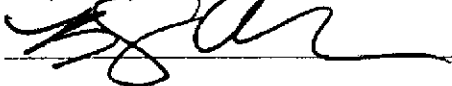
## **CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS**

**PORTABLE RESTROOMS**- Mr. Harris asked if the portable restrooms were at the beaches because he did not see one at Plum Cove two weeks ago. Ms. Schweitzer stated that there is one at Plum Cove Beach now.

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETINGS**- Ms. Burke stated that the next Board of Health Meeting will be on July 10, 2014.

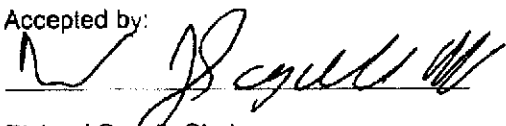
**MOTION** by Ms. Schweitzer to adjourn.  
Seconded by Mr. Harris. **CARRIED.**  
**MEETING ADJOURNED – 8:45 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,



Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by:



Richard Sadall, Chairperson