

**CITY OF GLOUCESTER  
Board of Health  
Minutes of the Meeting  
April 2, 2015  
City Hall Annex  
3 Pond Road  
Gloucester, MA 01930**

**CITY CLERK  
GLOUCESTER, MA  
15 JUL 14 PM 3:17**

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

**PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATION**

There was no "Public Oral Communication".

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** by Mr. Harris to approve the Gloucester Board of Health minutes of the meeting of February 5, 2015 as written. **Seconded** by Mr. Cowan. **CARRIED**. Mr. Rosa and Ms. Schweitzer **abstained**.

**MOTION** by Ms. Schweitzer to approve the Gloucester Board of Health minutes of the meeting of March 5, 2015 as written. **Seconded** by Mr. Harris. **CARRIED**. Mr. Cowan **abstained**.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS-**

*Kate Kokko*, the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) coordinator appeared before the board. She gave board members a brief summary of her responsibilities. She stated that she works for fifteen other communities. She stated that they are working on two projects, one with the City of Lynn creating a mass dispensing information gathering and the other project is working with the Cape Ann Emergency Preparedness Team. She stated that the Cape Ann project will be a tabletop exercise on setting up sheltering and an evacuation plan of a senior housing facility. She stated that the tabletop will be on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Cruiseport. She stated that they are also trying to provide some trainings for any non-medically trained staff that it is involved with emergency preparedness. She stated that she has been working with Lisa Jackson of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), to ensure that all volunteers are accredited.

**OPIOIDS: JOINT MEETING CITY COUNCIL AND BOARD OF HEALTH –**

*Paul McGeary*, City Councilor appeared before the board. He stated that there will be a presentation on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the City Council meeting on the opioid issue in Gloucester. He stated that they would like the Health Department and the Board of Health to speak on the public health issues caused by opioid and/or opiate abuse. He stated that there is a public hearing on May 2, 2015 at 11 a.m. at City Hall and the City Council would like to have a joint meeting with the Board of Health on the issue. He stated that they will take testimony from various sources at the meeting. He stated that it will be a daylong event, and they will have tables with information starting around 9 a.m., including tables with various health care providers that will be available to discuss the issue with residents. He stated that the tables will set up again after the meeting as well. He stated that they more they can educate people and raise awareness the better.

## OLD BUSINESS

### FLUORIDATION IN COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY-

*Chairperson Sagall* stated that the O & A meeting will be Monday, April 6, 2015 and they will determine whether or not the issue will appear on the next ballot. *Ms. Burke* stated that Dental Health Care of Massachusetts is interested in holding educational forums with interested communities.

### WORKING SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE BOARD, BRIEFING UPDATES -

*Children's Dental Center Planning* – *Ms. Burke* reported that the Children's Dental Center Planning is moving ahead. She stated that a few board members received a draft report from Jessie Williams Reynoso. She stated that some items on the report include upgrading furniture and equipment, relocating to a school to better serve children, and whether or not to become a non-profit organization. She stated that some staff will be retiring in the next few years, so staffing changes are inevitable.

*Performance of Mandated Enforcement Services* – *Mr. Schenk* stated that they are continuing to move forward with the Performance of Mandated Enforcement Services Subcommittee. He stated that he sent board members a spreadsheet with all the department's mandated enforcement services.

*Presentation on Public Health Accreditation Discussion* – *Ms. Burke* stated that the accreditation is moving across the nation and the Massachusetts State Public Health Department is moving towards accreditation now. She presented a slide show by Mike Coughlin from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Three prerequisites to accreditation are: a community health assessment, a community health improvement plan, and an agency strategic plan. She went through the fee schedule and stated that there is a five year commitment. She went through the advantages and disadvantages of accreditation. She stated that she will send board members the presentation.

*Mr. Cowan* asked if any states have gone to accreditation. *Ms. Burke* responded that there are states that have gone to accreditation and she would get the names of those states at a later date.

The board thanked Ms. Burke for the presentation.

## MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented by Noreen Burke, Max Schenk, and Kelley Ries

*ANNUAL REPORT* - *Mr. Schenk* presented board members with a draft copy of the City of Gloucester, Health Department, Annual Report. He thanked Mr. Rosa for assisting with the formatting of the report. He stated that he would like any final changes and feedback submitted by next week. *Ms. Burke* stated that they may want to add information on some of the services they provide such as their support of the needle disposal kiosk at Addison Gilbert Hospital and research that the Board of Health and Health Department does for the City such as dog waste issues, fowl issues, and fluoridation of the community water supply.

*ISO*- *Mr. Schenk* reported that International Standards Organization (ISO) is a quality management system that mirrors the accreditation process. He stated that there are things they can do now heading towards the goals they have within the Septic Review Subcommittee in reviewing their onsite wastewater regulations. He stated that all Health Department regulations should be reviewed as a step towards the quality improvement process.

*BEACH SEASON*- *Mr. Schenk* reported that beach testing will be starting in the middle of May. He stated that the Health Department is responsible for the permitting of all the beaches.

**SPRAYING IN WATER SHED AREAS-** *Mr. Schenk* reported that he has been reviewing the Vegetated Management Plan for the railways system. He stated that he will work with Dave Sargent to ensure they are not spraying within the watershed areas.

**ALEWIFE COUNT-** *Mr. Schenk* stated that he works on the alewife count at the corner of Essex Avenue and Magnolia Avenue to ensure there is a healthy food chain species in the area. He invited board members to assist if they are interested.

**MOSQUITO CONTROL-** *Mr. Schenk* reported that he developed a memo that he sent to Dr. Katie Brown regarding arborvirus season and the activities that the Board of Health participating in over the summer with Senator Bruce Tarr and the Department of Agriculture.

**PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE-** *Ms. Ries* introduced herself to board members. She gave board members a summary of her qualifications. She stated that she has met with Sunny Robinson to assist her in her new role.

**STAFFING UPDATES-** *Ms. Burke* reported that they have two candidates for Health Gloucester Collaborative Coordinator position.

**GRANTS-** *Ms. Burke* reported that they submitted the Underage Drinking regional grant in January and they are still waiting to hear if they were awarded that grant. She stated that they also submitted the Drug Free Communities Renewal grant as well. She stated that both grants are core funded for the Healthy Gloucester Collaborative.

**OPEN MEETING LAW-** *Ms. Burke* reported that the Open Meeting Law meeting will be on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

**NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAM-** *Ms. Burke* reported that there have been conversations regarding a needle exchange program.

**BUDGET HEARING-** *Ms. Burke* reported that the budget hearing will be on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

## **CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS**

**WATER DAMAGE AT THE SENIOR CENTER-** *Mr. Cowan* asked if there has been anymore water damage at the senior center. *Mr. Schenk* responded that he was not aware that there was any damage, but he will check on the issue.


**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETINGS-** *Ms. Burke* thanked Pam Ciccone, the Public Health Nurse from Manchester for assisting the Health Department in the absence of their public health nurse.

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETINGS-** *Ms. Burke* stated that the next Board of Health Meeting will be on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

**MOTION** by Mr. Rosa to adjourn.  
Seconded by Mr. Harris. **CARRIED.**  
**MEETING ADJOURNED – 7:45 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by:



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Richard Sagall, Chairperson