

**CITY OF GLOUCESTER  
Board of Health  
Minutes of the Meeting  
February 5, 2015  
City Hall Annex  
3 Pond Road  
Gloucester, MA 01930**

CITY CLERK  
GLOUCESTER, MA  
15 APR -3 AM 10:16

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

**PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATION**

There was no "Public Oral Communication".

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

"Approval of Minutes" was deferred to the March meeting because of a lack of a quorum.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**3 TORONTO AVENUE (MAP 136, LOT 54) –**

Property owned by Janet Herman – represented by Dan Ottenheimer, Mill River Consulting

*Request for variance from local regulations, including siting a leachfield 56' from a wetland buffer zone.*

*Dan Ottenheimer*, of Mill River Consulting appeared before the board on behalf of the owners. He gave a brief overview of the variance requested. He stated that he presented at the last meeting and a continuance was requested by the abutters and was granted by the board. He stated that he received a document from an engineer hired by the abutter three hours ago. He stated that he does not feel it is feel to him or the board to present documents with such short notice.

*Ms. Kirchner* gave a brief over view of the variance that is being requested at 3 Toronto Avenue. She stated that she is comfortable with the system and feels that the variance should be granted.

*Mr. Cowan* asked if there was a retaining wall or a barrier around the leach field. *Mr. Ottenheimer* responded that there is a wall proposed around the leach field, a barrier will not be required because of the height of the wall. *Ms. Kirchner* stated that the height of the wall will have to be approved by the Building Department.

*Chairperson Sagall* asked if there was anyone in the audience that would like to speak for or against the proposed variance.

*April Ferraro* with Meridian Associates appeared before the board in opposition of the proposed variance. She stated that they wrote a letter to the board today representing an abutter at 78 Eastern Point. She apologized for the lateness of the letter. She stated that they do not have an issue with the design of the system. She stated that they would like the board to consider the property lines and the wetland line locations before they approve the variance request and encouraged the board to continue the request for a variance.

*Peter Hoffman* 780 Boylston Street in Boston appeared before the board in favor of the proposed variances. He stated that Mrs. Herman is very ill and the family would like to get the property ready to sell. He urged the board not to delay their vote again due to the lateness of the letter from Meridian.

*Mr. Schenk* stated that before any work is done to the property it will have to be approved by the Conservation Commission and they will check the location of the wetlands on the property and if there are any issues it would come back before the Board of Health.

*Chairperson Sagall* stated that he agrees with Mr. Ottenheimer and Mr. Hoffman with the issue of the lateness of documents. He stated that this is the second time they received documentation at the last minute.

**MOTION** by Mr. Cowan that the Gloucester Board of Health grant the variance request for 3 Toronto Avenue as written on the agenda of February 5, 2015. **Seconded** by Mr. Harris. **CARRIED.**

#### **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 *Jessie Williams Reynoso* is working on a report to present to the board. *Mr. Cowan* asked if the location of the Dental Center is secure. *Ms. Burke* responded that they renew the lease each year and the location is secure.

**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 they are waiting for the new database system to be implemented and they will be integrating a scanning system for documents.

**Local Public Health Accreditation Discussion** – *Ms. Burke* stated that the accreditation is moving across the nation. She stated that they are planning on meeting to discuss accreditation; however they have some staffing issues that will take precedent over the accreditation discussion. She stated that the State Public Health Department is moving towards accreditation now.

#### **FLUORIDATION IN COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY-**

*Ms. Burke* thanked Chairperson Sagall for his leadership on the fluoridation in community water supply issue. She stated that she called Council President Paul McGeary to inquire on the progress of developing advisory ballot questions on the question of discontinuing fluoride as voted by City Council in December. Council President McGeary said he would give a heads up to the Board when that happens sometime at future O & A meeting.

*Chairperson Sagall* thanked the people who have written letters to the Gloucester Daily Times on the issue.

#### **KEEPING OF FOWL-**

*Mr. Schenk* stated that he spoke with Diane Corliss, the Animal Control Officer and there have been no recent issues with "Keeping of Fowl".

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no "New Business".

## **MONTHLY REPORTS**

Presented by Noreen Burke and Max Schenk

**ANNUAL REPORT** - *Mr. Schenk* reported that they have updated some information on the annual report such as the Healthy Gloucester Collaborative, emergency preparedness, and staffing changes. *Ms. Burke* stated that there should be an item added to the annual report regarding all the research the Health Department has done this past year, such as researching fluoridation of community water and managing dog waste this past year. *Mr. Schenk* stated that they can add a paragraph called "Special Topics".

**RIVERDALE WALL**- *Mr. Schenk* reported that he did check into the issue brought up previously by *Mr. Cowan* of a wall at Riverdale Place. He stated that the minutes of the meeting where approval of the project was granted did not call for a barrier wall.

**LOBSTA LAND**- *Mr. Schenk* reported that he checked with the Land Disposition Committee process with the Lobsta Land restaurant. He stated that he checked with various city departments regarding the process and relayed the pertinent information to the engineer.

**ANNUAL INSPECTOR'S REPORT 2014**- *Mr. Schenk* reported that there were 54 ten day quarantines issued for dogs, cats, and horses; 53 forty-five day quarantines issued; 19 six month quarantines; eight rabies tests; twelve barn inspections listed in the Annual Animal Inspector's report for 2014.

**MHOA REQUEST**- *Mr. Schenk* reported that he received a request from MHOA asking for input on a vapor intrusion guidance document from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection within the next 24 hours. He stated that he did submit some comments on the document and shared those comments with the board.

**PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE** -*Ms. Burke* reported that Rochelle Bartlett-Ayer the retired health nurse from Marblehead started as the interim Public Health Nurse as of January 22, 2015. She stated that she will be in the office on Tuesdays from 8-4 and will monitor MAVEN for reported infectious disease surveillance. She stated that *Ms. Ayer* will prioritize administering the 18 remaining Shingle vaccinations. She stated that they are looking for a new site with a generator back up to store their vaccinations.

**STAFFING ISSUES**- *Ms. Burke* reported that they have a new PHEP Consultant Coordinator, *Kate Kokko*. She stated that the emergency preparedness grant will end in June. She stated that they will activate a emergency preparedness drill this week. She stated that they have posted the Public Health Nurse position again and they have a promising candidate.

**PRESENTATIONS**- *Ms. Burke* reported that the Health Director of Hamilton is going to do a presentation regarding the sharing of services in Health Departments and invited board members to attend. She stated that *Sunny Robinson* is doing a presentation called One Billion Rising, Thursday at the Cape Ann Savings Bank and a domestic violence presentation will be at the Gloucester High School on Thursday as well.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT VISION**- *Ms. Burke* reported that she would like to work on the vision of the Health Department in the upcoming year.

## **CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS**

**DAMPNESS ISSUE AT SENIOR CENTER**- *Mr. Cowan* asked if there was an update on the dampness issue at the Rose Baker Senior Center. *Mr. Schenk* responded that he will check into the issue.

**ABUTTER LETTERS-** *Mr. Harris* asked if the letters that are sent out to abutters should state something about attending the Board of Health meeting if they are opposed to any of the variance requests. *Mr. Schenk* responded that he has been discussing the issue of having any documentation regarding a plan be provided a week before the Board of Health meeting. The board agreed to change the policy requiring a 72 hour notification of any documents on variance requests at the next meeting.

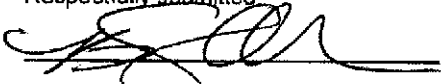
**SCHOOL POLICIES-** *Chairperson Sagall* asked *Ms. Burke* if she knew how many students are on medical and religious exemptions to being vaccinated at the schools and asked what the school policy is on immuno-compromised children. *Ms. Burke* responded that she will check into those policies.

**COMFORT ANIMALS-** *Chairperson Sagall* stated that there was an interesting article in the Boston Globe regarding comfort animals opposed to service animals. He asked if there were any regulations in Gloucester regarding service and comfort animals. *Ms. Burke* responded that she will check into the issue.

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETINGS-** *Ms. Burke* stated that the next Board of Health Meeting will be on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015. *Mr. Cowan* stated that he cannot attend the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**MOTION** by *Mr. Rosa* to adjourn.  
Seconded by *Mr. Harris*. **CARRIED.**  
**MEETING ADJOURNED – 7:20 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted

  
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Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by:

  
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Richard Sagall, Chairperson