

**CITY OF GLOUCESTER
Board of Health
Minutes of the Meeting
July 9, 2015
City Hall Annex
3 Pond Road
Gloucester, MA 01930**

CITY CLERK
GLOUCESTER, MA

15 AUG 11 AM 8:34

Board members present: Chairperson: Dr. Richard Sagall, Vice-Chairperson: Robert Harris, Frederick Cowan, and Joe Rosa. Present from the Health Department: Public Health Director: Noreen Burke; Food Inspector: Rosalie Nicastro; Children's Dental Center: Jill Marston; Manager of Environmental Health: Max Schenk; and Kelley Ries, Public Health Nurse. Absent: Claudia Schweitzer.

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

PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATION

There was no "Public Oral Communication".

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Cowan to approve the Gloucester Board of Health minutes of the meeting of June 4th, 2015 as written. **Seconded** by Mr. Harris. **CARRIED.**

NEW BUSINESS

CHILDREN'S DENTAL CENTER PLANNING REPORT: DISCUSSION-

Ms. Burke stated that she started her position over three years ago and felt there was a disconnect between the Children's Dental Center and the Health Department and they needed to reestablish the working relationship between the two. She stated that she has been working on a road map for the planning of the future of the dental center. She stated that Jill Marston has done a great job working with limited resources at the dental center. She stated that they convened a panel to create a report of the planning of the dental center; she shared the report and highlighted items from the report with board members.

Jill Marston from the Children's Dental Center stated that the dental center is one-hundred percent self-sustainable. She stated that one suggestion has been to expand the insurance that they accept since they only accept Mass Health currently. She stated that other suggestions are to have an interpreter at the center and to expand their services. *Mr. Cowan* stated that there is telephone technology available to act as an interpreter.

Mr. Rosa stated that Gloucester is very lucky to have a facility such as the dental center in the city. He stated that having a relationship with the Community Health Center to work with the parents could also be beneficial. *Ms. Marston* stated that they working on educating parents.

Mr. Cowan stated that security is not mentioned in the report; having the working relationship with the schools where the children can attend the dentist without a parent is a great benefit to the program.

The board thanked Ms. Marston for her hard work and for attending the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

FLUORIDATION IN COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY-

Larry Durkin, Environmental Engineer for the City of Gloucester appeared before the board. *Mr. Durkin* stated that DPW has taken action based on the recommendations from the Board of Health to drop the level of fluoridation in the city water supply from 1.0 mg/L to .07mg/L. He stated that they are recording raw water fluoride daily. He stated that a resident tested his well water and the well water had 2.0 mg/L of fluoride in it, which is still half the level the EPA recommends as safe. He stated that they tested some bottled waters and they also found low levels of fluoride in them, he shared those results with the board. He stated that they are also concerned with herbicides at the Babson Water shed and would like the boards' support on addressing the issue. He stated that they are also concerned with rampant swimming and boats in the reservoirs and would like to increase fines for infractions. Preventing the introduction of invasive species is of critical concern. He shared a flyer on dog waste from the Mass DEP with the board. He stated that he would like the dog walkers to form a coalition to stop the amount of dog waste at Goose Cove Reservoir.

The board agreed to draft a letter of support for Mr. Durkin to the city administration.

DOGS IN RESTAURANTS: RESEARCH AND FURTHER DISCUSSION-

Mr. Schenk stated that he contacted fourteen different communities to find out if they had any regulations on allowing dogs in restaurants. He stated that three communities have regulations on allowing dogs in restaurants. He stated that Swampscott was the first to allow dogs in one of their restaurants, prompted by a sole restaurant owner and that is the only restaurant in the town that permits dogs in restaurants. He stated that Salem looked at what Swampscott did and created their own guidelines to allow dogs in a few of their restaurants. He stated dogs, other than service dogs, are not allowed in restaurants per the food code. He stated that these communities that have applied for variances only permit dogs in patio areas. He stated that Newburyport does not have any variances for allowing dogs in restaurants and they do not allow them into any of their food establishments. He stated that Salisbury is the third community to have a variance and they are only allowed in one restaurant. He stated that there are no other coastal communities that have any variances for permitting dogs in restaurants. He stated that this would increase the amount of complaints for the Health Departments, since there are approximately twelve restaurants that have outside seating in Gloucester.

Mr. Cowan stated that he is concerned that the Board of Health cannot provide the safety of residents with granting a variance such as this.

Mr. Harris stated that there is a lot of risk in granting this type of variance and not a lot of reward.

The board agreed to discuss the issue again when an official variance is filed with the Health Department.

OPIATE ABUSE: A CALL TO COMMUNITY ACTION -

Ms. Burke stated that the program has been a tremendous success and thirty people began the program after the first thirty days the program was implemented.

Councilor McGeary appeared before the board. He stated that he agrees with Ms. Burke and the Health Department, the Board of Health, the High Risk Task Force, and the Healthy Gloucester Collaborative deserve credit for the success of the program as well.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented by Noreen Burke, Max Schenk, and Kelley Ries

CAMP INSPECTIONS- *Ms. Ries* reported that she is finishing up the camp inspections with Mr. Schenk and they have all gone smoothly.

NEEDLE DISPOSAL SITES- *Ms. Ries* reported that she has been working with Sander Shultz regarding the possibility of putting up a few wall mounted sharps disposal containers at a few sites around the city. She stated that they put wall mounted units at the Rose Baker Senior Center, the Action Shelter, and the Grace Center. She stated that the State is going to deliver a kiosk to the North Shore Health Project. *Mr. Cowan* stated that there is also a kiosk at Addison Gilbert Hospital.

HEPATIS C MAILINGS - *Ms. Ries* reported that she is continuing with some Hepatitis C mailings to cases that have been reported to the Health Department and one of those mailings resulted in the resident following up at the North Shore Health Project.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES- *Ms. Ries* reported they have had 5 campylobacter cases, 2 viral Meningitis cases, 1 Giardia case and 1 Salmonella case that have been reported. She stated that they suspect that 33 people have contracted Lyme disease.

HEALTH FAIR- *Ms. Ries* reported the Health Fair will be next week at the Rose Baker Senior Center and she will be there with an interactive display for mosquitoes and ticks.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF- *Mr. Schenk* thanked Chris Sargent, Erin Kirchner, and Rosalie Nicastro for their work during this busy inspectional season. He stated that he is working on providing board members with a monthly report of all the inspections that are completed each month.

BEACH ATTENDANCE AND CLIMATE CHANGE- *Mr. Schenk* reported that he was contacted by Mike Beattie from the Department of Environmental Inspections to look at beach attendance in Gloucester to see if climate change has impacted beach attendance over time.

ARBORVIRUS- *Mr. Schenk* reported that the state did approve the licensing and training of individual communities to do a program with catch basin testing and larvaciding.

STAFFING UPDATES- *Ms. Burke* reported that Cristina Los started this week as the Healthy Gloucester Collaborative Coordinator.

GRANTS- *Ms. Burke* reported that they have three Healthy Gloucester Collaborative grants this year. She stated that the PHEP grant is going through the community of Lawrence.

ARBORVIRUS- *Ms. Burke* reported that they participated in their first mosquito control call this season. She stated that she would like the DPW to get involved with the catch basin training program.

SMOKE-FREE BEACHES- *Ms. Burke* reported that some coastal communities on Cape Cod are moving towards smoke-free beaches.

CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS

VACCINATION EXEMPTIONS *Mr. Cowan* stated State Senator Joan Lovely has an initiative to expand the exemption for vaccinations to include philosophical reasons. *Chairperson Sagall* stated that California

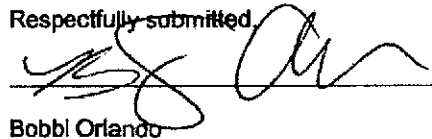
Page 4
Minutes of the Board of Health
July 9, 2015

just mandated that exemptions are only allowed for medical reasons and they joined Louisiana and West Virginia. He stated that vaccination requirements only apply to children if they want to attend public schools.

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETINGS- Ms. Burke stated that the next Board of Health Meeting will be on August 6th, 2015. She stated that she will not be in attendance at that meeting.

MOTION by Mr. Rosa to adjourn.
Seconded by Mr. Harris. **CARRIED.**
MEETING ADJOURNED – 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by:



Richard Sagall, Chairperson

Documents Referenced:

July 9th Board of Health Agenda
June 4th Board of Health Minutes
Monthly Reports
Dental Center Planning Report