

CITY OF GLOUCESTER
Board of Health
Minutes of the Meeting
July 2, 2020
6:00 p.m.
Remote Meeting Via Zoom

Board members virtually present courtesy of a system organized by the City's IT Department: Chairperson: Dr. Richard Sagall; Vice–Chairperson: Robert Harris; Frederick Cowan; Joe Rosa; and Claudia Schweitzer. Present from the Health Department: Health Director: Karin Carroll; Assistant Director: Max Schenk.

The meeting started at 6:00 p.m.

This meeting is recorded by video and audio in accordance with state Open Meeting Law. Consistent with the Governor's orders suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law and banning gatherings of more than 10 people, this meeting will be conducted by remote participation. If you are calling in on a phone you can press Star 9 (*9) to request to speak. If you are watching on a computer or device there is a "raise hand" button that you can tap or press to request to speak. Please use either of these options during oral communications to be recognized to speak.

PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATION

There was no "Public Oral Communication".

MOTION by Ms. Schweitzer to approve the Gloucester Board of Health minutes of the meeting of June 4th, 2020 as written. **Seconded** by Mr. Cowan. **CARRIED**.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no "New Business".

OLD BUSINESS

UPDATE: 159 East Main Street Noise Complaint and Sound Re-test Requirement from July 11, 2019-

Chris Leghorn, of 6 Chapel Street appeared before the board via telephone. She stated she appeared before the board in the past regarding her concern about the noise coming from the Atlantic Fish and Seafood Factory on East Main Street. She stated that her concern continues. She stated that sometimes the sound is better but sometimes it is bad and she cannot open her

windows, it varies from day to day or hour to hour. She asked if they have installed the chimneys to direct the sound upward yet.

Pam Owen of 170 East Main Street appeared before the board via telephone. She stated that she has the same concerns as Ms. Leghorn. She stated that you can hear the factory all the way up at Marble Road, it is a constant moan and groan that is very disturbing.

Nick Osgood, managing partner of NSDJ Real Estate LLC and president of Atlantic Fish and Seafood at 159 East Main Street appeared before the board via telephone. He stated that the surround unit has been installed, it goes up about four or five feet and directs the sound upward. He stated that the sound engineers thought that that would make a big difference and it has muffled that device but they are still at around 52 or 53 decibels. He stated that the sound engineers seem to think there is an ambient sound in the neighborhood. He stated that they are thinking about shutting the facility down entirely and listening to the sounds of the neighborhood. He stated that they are also going to look internally at their hydraulics system and possibly shifting them to the ocean-side of the building. He stated that that would be very costly to the business.

Mr. Cowan stated that he has been doing site visits for over a year and the sound has changed since a year ago. He stated that there was a low, throbbing sound which has gone away, now there is a higher pitch sound. He stated that he recorded the sound and asked if the recording could be sent to Mr. Osgood. He stated the sound seems to be coming from Door 4.

Mr. Osgood stated that they have not added any new equipment that would add to the sound.

Chairperson Sagall stated that Mr. Osgood has been responsive in working on the issue but the issue is still not resolved, so a plan still needs to be devised. He stated that shutting down the plant is a good next step to see if there is sound coming from elsewhere.

Ms. Schweitzer suggested that Mr. Cowan be present at the factory when the factory shuts down.

Mr. Cowan stated that he would be happy to do that. *Mr. Osgood* stated that he would coordinate with the Health Department.

Chairperson Sagall requested that Mr. Osgood come to the August meeting for another update.

Ms. Leghorn stated that she would like to be informed when the factory is shut down as well and she thanked Mr. Osgood for his efforts. She stated that she will try to keep a log of the sounds she hears.

Chris Anderson of 24 Highland Street appeared before the board via telephone. He stated that he has the same concerns as Ms. Leghorn. He stated that he cannot listen to music at night

with his windows open because the noise from the factory is so loud. He stated that he will also try to keep a log.

Update on Covid-19 Response Actions-

Ms. Carroll stated that state-wide there were zero deaths three days ago and then yesterday there were 28 deaths. She stated that they are down to zero active cases in Gloucester and have had 24 deaths to date. She stated that all numbers are subject to change and they are concerned about what is happening at a national level. She stated that Phase 3 will start on Monday, July 6, 2020. She stated that the State offered free testing to anyone who participated in a protest and the positive test rate was under 1%. She stated that they learned this week that many private insurance companies and Medicare are not going to cover Covid-19 testing for asymptomatic individuals. She stated that this is contrary to what they have been doing. She stated that this seems like a big step back. She stated that they have requested a nurse testing position who would be responsible for weekly high risk testing sites. She stated that they are hoping to get a testing site on Cape Ann, the closest testing site is in Danvers. She stated that another concern is the overflow of homeless. She stated that there will be 18 people moving back into the Action Shelter in the next day or so.

Ms. Carroll stated that Janet Dickerson, the Business Cluster Liaison Nurse, has started and has been a tremendous resource to the businesses.

Ms. Carroll stated that the Covid-19 wastewater testing is starting and she thanked the board members who have made the testing happen. She stated that they will ask for funds from the CARE Act to continue testing until the end of the year. *Mr. Rosa* stated that the company can do drug testing through wastewater as well.

Ms. Carroll stated that City offices plan to open to the public on July 13, 2020. *Mr. Schenk* stated that the Health Department will work in teams to prevent the shutdown of the department if someone tests positive for Covid-19. He stated that they are installing shields in the office. He stated that people will have to make an appointment and you must wear a mask when visiting. The board discussed if there will be enough custodial staff to sanitize public restrooms and surfaces.

The board thanked the Health Department for their efforts around the pandemic.

Supplemental First Aid at City Beaches-

Ms. Carroll stated that the beaches have their own first aid kits and lifeguards that report to DPW. She stated that she reached out to the DPW regarding training and including Narcan in the first aid kits, last year when the Board of Health requested that anywhere there was an AED machine, there should also be Narcan. She stated that she had a meeting with Eric Smith and she learned that beaches cannot have Narcan unless there is a medical director at the beach to

prescribe it. She stated that Mr. Smith believes that the beaches should have a medical director and has sought the assistance of the City's Legal Department on the issue.

Mr. Schenk stated that the issues that were raised by Robert Russell regarding Long Beach have been resolved since the Health Department has no jurisdiction over a parking lot.

Ms. Carroll stated that the Dental Center is on hold, they closed as they always do, to follow the school calendar. She stated that they have put in requests for plexiglass and such when they do reopen. She stated that they plan on reopening the Dental Center in the fall with the school if they can.

CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS

Next Regular Monthly Meeting Board of Health- The next Board of Health monthly meeting will be on August 6, 2020 at 6 pm.

MOTION by Mr. Cowan to adjourn.
Seconded by Mr. Rosa. **CARRIED.**
MEETING ADJOURNED – 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by:

Richard Sagall, Chairperson

Documents Referenced:

July 2, 2020 Board of Health Agenda
Minutes of June 4th, 2020 meeting