

CITY OF GLOUCESTER
Board of Health
Minutes of the Meeting
April 4, 2013
CATA Training Room
3 Pond Road
Gloucester, MA 01930

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

PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATION

There was no “Public Oral Communication”.

MOTION by Ms. Schweitzer that the Gloucester Board of Health approve the Minutes of the Meeting of March 14, 2013 as written. **Seconded** by Mr. Rosa. **CARRIED**. Abstained: Dr. Sagall and Mr. Cowan.

NEW BUSINESS

15 TOTTEN LANE-

MAP 252/LOT 4

- Request for variance to Board of Health Well Regulations Requirement of 150-foot setback to adjacent septic system
- Request for opinion on the possible use of a cistern as a potable water source

Isaac Rowe, of Mill River Consulting appeared before the board on behalf of Chris Peterson the owner of 15 Totten Lane. He stated that the owner would like to get city water to the property year round. He stated that he would like the Board of Health to consider the request to extend city water up to 15 Totten Lane. He stated that the other option they are considering is to install a cistern at the property. He stated that he is having trouble finding regulations regarding cisterns. He stated that Essex is the only town that he could find that has regulations for cisterns. He stated that he will get the board a copy of those regulations. *Mr. Cowan* stated that the water has to be pure before it goes into the system.

Mr. Rosa recommended that Mr. Rowe submit a proper proposal to the Health Department. The board discussed modifying the existing well regulations.

**MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR,
& PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORTS**

Presented by Noreen Burke and Max Schenk

STAFF POSITIONS- *Ms. Burke* reported that the posting for the Public Health Nurse closes on Monday. She stated that Ms. Schweitzer, Mrs. O’Hanley and her will be on the interviewing committee. She invited any other board members to join the committee as well. She stated that the retired Public Health Nurse from Marblehead will be the interim Public Health Nurse. She will start on April 17, 2013.

BUDGET- *Ms. Burke* thanked Dr. Sagall for attending the FY14 Budget meeting with her. She stated that they will go before the Budget and Finance committee to present the budget as well.

GRANTS- *Ms. Burke* reported that she is continuing to try to source a grant writing consultant. She stated that it is important that they have a strategic consultant so they can have a strategic framework to work from.

EMERGENCY SHELTER- *Ms. Burke* reported that the Health Department is continuing to assist Chief Smith and Carol McMahon with a new emergency shelter site. She stated that they are looking at the O'Maley Middle School as an emergency shelter site and would like to have a drill in the summer or early fall there.

HEALTH FAIR- *Ms. Burke* reported that the Health Department will not be holding a Health Fair this year. She stated that last year's fair was not well attended and not cost efficient. She stated that they are looking for other ways to disseminate public health information to residents.

TEEN BIRTH RATE- *Ms. Burke* reported that the Mass Department of Public Health released the 2010 data on teen birth rates in Massachusetts. She stated that teen birth rate has plummeted by 50% in Massachusetts, the lowest rate on record. She stated that Gloucester's rate is 1.2 times higher than the state's rate. She stated that the state rate is 17.1% and Gloucester's rate is 20.5%. She stated that Gloucester is not in the top twenty five communities in Massachusetts for the highest teen birth rate.

TITLE 5 INSPECTOR- *Ms. Burke* reported that they are going to start interviewing the top three applicants for the Title 5 Inspector on Monday.

SAWYER FREE LIBRARY- *Ms. Burke* stated that she was asked to read a poem tonight at 7 pm at the Sawyer Free Library.

BEACH TESTING- *Mr. Schenk* reported that the Health Department is preparing for beach and camping season and will start pre-testing the beaches in May. *Mr. Cowan* asked if the Health Department can assure him that the parking lot at the beaches will not be open until there is running water in the restrooms. *Mr. Schenk* responded that he will look into that issue.

DATA ENTRY- *Mr. Schenk* reported that they have hired a part-time person to come in once a week to assist in catching up on data entry for the Health Department.

HOTEL AT THE FORT- *Mr. Schenk* stated that the hotel at the fort has been approved and the construction is set to start and occur between the hours of 8 p.m. and 5 a.m. *Mr. Rosa* suggested that the Health Department send their list of conditions that were attached to the approval to City Council.

OLD BUSINESS

MOSQUITO CONTROL- *Chairperson Sagall* stated that the Board of Health has recommended to the City that they join the Northeast Mosquito Control District for surveillance purposes. He stated that there was an excellent forum last week at Cruiseport. He stated that joining the district does not mean that the City is committed to spraying, but it gives the City the means to assess if there is even a need to spray. *Mr. Rosa* stated that it is clear that things have changed and mosquitoes are becoming an increasing health risk. He stated that it behooves the Health Department to learn as much as possible, so the public can know the extent of the risk. He stated that what the City does with the information is a separate issue. *Ms. Burke* stated that the forum will be aired on Cape Ann Television.

MOSQUITO CONTROL, CON'T- *Jane Alessandra* of 17 Ratcliffe Street appeared before the board. She stated that Jack Card stated at the forum that cities should make the decisions before they get the data so the strategy is in place. *Mr. Rosa* responded that he essentially agrees with that, but spraying would require some extraordinary event. He stated that spraying is the least effective of the steps that can be taken. He stated that they want to be able to collect the information and take the rational steps to limit the presence of mosquitoes.

Nathaniel Mulcahey of 33 Middle Street appeared before the board. He stated that there are many members of the community who have a real contention with the hotel project and therefore were not comfortable attending a meeting at Cruiseport. He stated that public forums should be held in a public place. He stated that he owns a humanitarian company and he works in 15 different companies, so he is familiar with mosquito related diseases. He stated that he appreciates the boards' hesitance regarding spraying because Gloucester is a fishing community and spraying could be severely detrimental to the fishing stocks. He asked the board to consider alternate organizations that can also monitor mosquito diseases in the area. The board asked if he could share the names of those organizations with them.

Dr. Nicole Andrade of 10 Becker Circle appeared before the board. She stated that Gloucester's future is being a green community and Gloucester cannot be a green community if they are spraying toxic chemicals in the air.

The board thanked the public for their comments and their interest in the issue.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA- *Ms. Burke* reported that the draft regulations were submitted last week to come before the Public Health Council for Massachusetts. She stated that she sent the link with the press release to board members. She stated that she did not see a role for local public health in the draft and believes the monitoring of medical marijuana dispensaries will all be at the state level.

CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS

GARDENS OF SAWYER FREE LIBRARY- *Mr. Cowan* stated that the Sawyer Free Library is starting a garden project and there was some concerns addressed at the last meeting regarding what would happen if the City had a water ban. He stated that there was a suggestion of a water truck to supplement the water supply, in lieu of putting in a well. He asked if trucks pumped enough water and how could they be sure the water would not contaminate the city's water supply. *Mr. Schenk* stated that the Water Treatment Facility staff would have to sign off on it to ensure the water would not contaminate the city's water.

ANNUAL REPORT- *Chairperson Sagall* asked board members if they would be interested in creating an annual report. He supplied board members with a copy of Beverly's annual report. The board agreed that an annual report is a great idea. *Ms. Burke* responded that she would be willing to help but currently she is understaffed at the Health Department and finding the time to collect the data would be very time consuming. The board agreed that the report would be completed by the Board of Health and not the Health Department.

STAFF APPRECIATION- The board discussed idea of a Staff Appreciation Luncheon during a work day. The board agreed that that is a good idea.

OPEN POSITIONS- *Ms. Schweitzer* asked what the Board could do to help during this time of being short staffed. *Ms. Burke* stated that she will be away for a couple weeks in the coming months and board members can assist during that time. She thanked board members for all their support.

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETINGS- *Ms. Burke* stated that the next Board of Health Meeting will be on May 2, 2013.

MOTION by Mr. Cowan to adjourn.
Seconded by Ms. Schweitzer. **CARRIED.**
MEETING ADJOURNED – 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by:

Dr. Richard Sagall, Chairperson