

CITY OF GLOUCESTER
Board of Health
Minutes of the Meeting
June 6, 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 Mr. Rosa that the Gloucester Board of Health approve the Minutes of the Meeting of May 2, 2013 as written. **Seconded** by Ms. Schweitzer. **CARRIED**. Abstained: Mr. Cowan.

OLD BUSINESS

BEACHES- *Ms. Burke* read a report sent from Mark Cole, of the DPW regarding the early opening of the beaches. *Mr. Schenk* stated that he has not yet checked what the policies are in other neighboring communities, but would still do that. *Mr. Cowan* stated that the previous issue was really with the parking lot being opened without the facilities being opened. *Ms. Schweitzer* stated that it should be the Mayor’s decision.

MOSQUITO CONTROL- *Ms. Burke* stated that the Board of Health’s request to join the Northeast Mosquito Control District was denied by the Mayor. She stated that the State just released the 2013 virus response plan. *Mr. Cowan* stated only New Hampshire has private enterprises that offer what the Northeast Mosquito Control District can offer and those enterprises are not licensed in Massachusetts. *Ms. Burke* stated that she been communicating with Dr. Katie Brown, the State of Massachusetts Veterinarian. She stated that Dr. Brown has stated that she understands the cost of joining the Northeast Mosquito Control District is significant but the services they are willing to offer are comprehensive, they have local knowledge of mosquito habitats and disease patterns and are already fully incorporated into the state’s surveillance system. She stated that one disadvantage is that their services have the potential for all or nothing; however that does not mean that the City has to utilize all the services they offer. She stated that Dr. Brown also reported that there are other companies who offer similar services but the barrier these companies encounter is the testing of the mosquitoes, the Northeast Mosquito Control Program is the only company that tests through the State. *Mr. Harris* stated that Cape Cod has been involved with the program for years but has not ever used the spraying service. The board also agreed that surveillance is their priority not spraying. The board agreed to draft a response letter to the Mayor’s letter addressing each of the issues she has raised.

TOBACCO REGULATIONS- *Ms. Burke* reported that the new tobacco regulations are in effect and once they are approved they are enforced by the Tobacco Control Program.

STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON- *Chairperson Sagall* stated that the Staff Appreciation Luncheon went very well and the staff seemed to be very appreciative. The board agreed to host more luncheons.

ANNUAL REPORT- *Mr. Rosa* stated that the Annual Report Subcommittee has been working on the Annual Report. *Mr. Rosa* suggested that Noreen and Max first go through the existing template and see what data is available. Board should later help with data collection. He stated that the document will act to inform City Council and the public of all the work that is done by the Health Department. He stated that this is a document that is being drafted by the Board of Health not the Health Department. He stated that we don't have to get everything the first time around, that generalities are fine. He asked for the board to communicate with each other to designate board members to start to collect data from a particular area in the Health Department.

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

Presented by Noreen Burke and Max Schenk

MEDICAL MARIJUANA- *Ms. Burke* stated that the state is still working on medical marijuana regulations; however it seems that Health Departments will only have involvement in enforcement if Health Departments chose to be involved.

YOUTH AT RISK CONFERENCE- *Ms. Burke* stated that she attended the Youth at Risk conference yesterday that the Essex Community Foundation put on. The workshop focused on youth and marijuana use. She stated that the potency of marijuana has increased tremendously since the 60's. She stated that a new concern is synthetic marijuana sold at convenient stores.

STAFFING UPDATES- *Ms. Burke* stated that Kathy Day, the Opiate Coordinator will be laid off in June due to the Opiate Prevention grant ending, and they will move to a regional approach. She stated that Joan Whitney will assume the Regional Director role. *Ms. Burke* reported that they have hired a new Public Health Nurse, Lianne Cook, RN MPH, she will start on June 19, 2013. *Ms. Schweitzer* requested that board members get a copy of Ms. Cook's resume. *Ms. Burke* stated that Mrs. O'Hanley will retire at the end of the year. *Mr. Schenk* stated that they have had the first set of candidates come through for the Public Health Sanitarian position, and they decided to re-open the posting. He thanked Jody Honsa for helping out with the updating files.

GRANTS- *Ms. Burke* reported that she hired a grant writing consultant Jessie Williams Renoso. She stated that she will work on the Dental Center, Healthy Gloucester and Mass in Motion grants. She stated that it is important that they have a strategic consultant so they can have a strategic framework to work from. She stated that there will be a 10% cut in the Emergency Preparedness grant. She stated that Get Fit Gloucester grant will be ending this year and this grant has been important in promoting healthy living for Gloucester residents.

CITY HALL ANNEX- *Ms. Burke* reported that they have lost their conference room because of additional staff in the Community Development Department. She stated that they are out growing their space and some Health Department staff has approached her about not being able to work efficiently in the open cubicle work spaces.

DR. BRIAN ORR- *Ms. Burke* reported that she met with Dr. Brian Orr for the first time. She stated that they spoke about youth health issues, including teen pregnancy issues.

SHINGLES VACCINE- *Ms. Burke* reported that they have given out 57 doses of the Shingles Vaccine. She stated that they have 9 people on the waiting list to receive the vaccine, when they have 10 they will order more, because it must be ordered in batches of 10.

LOBSTA LAND- *Mr. Rosa* asked if Lobsta Land was open and if they were meeting the boards' pumping

requirements. *Mr. Schenk* responded that there was an issue but it has been corrected and there have been no complaints.

CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS

EGGS AT GROCERY STORES- *Mr. Cowan* asked if there was a health concern about broken eggs at grocery stores and the risk of salmonella. *Ms. Burke* responded that she will check with the Food Inspector on the issue.

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETINGS- *Ms. Burke* stated that the next Board of Health Meeting will be on July 11, 2013.

MOTION by Mr. Cowan to adjourn.
Seconded by Ms. Schweitzer. **CARRIED.**
MEETING ADJOURNED – 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by:

Dr. Richard Sagall, Chairperson