

CITY OF GLOUCESTER
Board of Health
Minutes of the Meeting
January 9, 2014
CATA Training Room
3 Pond Road
Gloucester, MA 01930

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

PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATION

There was no “Public Oral Communication”.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Cowan that the Gloucester Board of Health approve the Minutes of the Meeting of December 5, 2013 as written. **Seconded** by Ms. Schweitzer. **CARRIED**. Mr. Rosa abstained.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented by Noreen Burke, Lianne Cook, and Max Schenk

FLU CLINICS- *Ms. Cook* provided board members with an article with the latest update on influenza activity. She stated that within the next year or two they will be able to give a flu forecast. She stated that approximately 20 states are classified as having wide-spread flu activity and Massachusetts is one of them. She stated that she has had 6 confirmed flu cases in Gloucester. She stated that it is not too late to get vaccinated and there are two more scheduled clinics at the Health Department on January 14th from 9-11 and January 16th from 3-5. She stated that there were 6 flu related deaths in Pennsylvania and 2 in Massachusetts. She stated that the predominant strain is H1N1. She gave board members a program summary of the 2013/2014 flu clinics.

Chairperson Sagall asked how small of a business they would do a flu vaccine clinic at. *Ms. Cook* responded that flu clinics are a lot of work and there would have to be at least 25 employees at the business.

Ms. Schweitzer suggested using the Friend Room at the Sawyer Free Library for a more accessible venue for the flu clinics.

HOARDING - *Mr. Schenk* reported that they had two hoarding issues this past week. He thanked *Ms. Cook* with her assistance in both issues. He stated that the first location was brought to the Health Department by the property owner after his tenant had left the property. The property owner came to the Health Department looking for assistance. The second property involved a response by the Police and Fire Departments, as well as Building Inspector, and later, by Senior Care. He stated that there was a condemnation order issued at both locations.

ACTION SHELTER- *Ms. Burke* reported that she received a phone call from Councilor Paul McGeary stating that he would like the board to support the Action Shelter. She stated that the shelter has a 34 bed limit and Councilor McGeary is going to ask the Mayor to support a hotel/voucher system to allow individuals who cannot get a bed at the shelter.

Ms. Schweitzer stated that she appeared before the Zoning Board last year on behalf of the Board of Health to support the increase of beds at the shelter.

Ms. Cook stated that the problem is increasing and the Boston Globe has been covering the issue frequently.

The board discussed their continued concern for the lack of beds at the shelter.

STUDENT SURVEY- Ms. Burke provided board members with two articles that were written this week regarding the student survey. She stated that one article was in the newspaper yesterday entitled "City Shows Gain Versus Teen Substance Use". She stated that they were pleased with the story. She stated that the second article was supposed to be in today's paper but did not print. She stated that Dr. Saffier is questioning the validity of the survey regarding the bullying data.

Mr. Rosa stated that one issue that they may want to ask the evaluators about is whether or not they have seen any correlation with implementation of anti-bullying activities or programs in schools in response to raising awareness.

STAFFING UPDATES- Ms. Burke reported that Terry O'Hanley, the Principle Clerk for the Health Department retired on December 20, 2013. She stated that they have three candidates for the position and they will start interviews for that position next week. She thanked board members for Mrs. O'Hanley's send off. Chairperson Sagall read a thank you note from Mrs. O'Hanley.

Ms. Burke stated that they are still trying to fill the Fiscal Grants position and the position may be reposted. She stated that Jade Langley the Medical Reserve Corp Coordinator has resigned and they have a temporary person filling that position but will be posting the position in the future.

MAYOR'S INAUGURATION- Ms. Burke reported that she was very pleased that the Mayor called out the mission of the Health Department and referenced the flu clinics at her inauguration.

MASS IN MOTION- Ms. Burke reported that she continues to work with Steve Winslow on the Mass in Motion Grant. She stated that they have been meeting to discuss the topic of workplace wellness. She stated that Mr. Winslow is trying to obtain grant money to hire a nutritionist/wellness coach as a consultant.

DENTAL CENTER- Ms. Burke reported that there was a flood at the Dental Center caused by an apartment located above the center, but the center is still functioning. She stated that there is approximately \$5,000 - 7,000 in damage.

SHINGLES VACCINE- Ms. Burke reported that she submitted a request for more Shingles vaccine.

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

MOTION by Mr. Cowan that the Gloucester Board of Health nominate Rich Sagall as Chairperson for the Gloucester Board of Health. **Seconded** by Mr. Rosa. **CARRIED.**

Fred Cowan for Rich Sagall
Claudia Schweitzer for Rich Sagall
Rob Harris for Rich Sagall
Joe Rosa for Rich Sagall
Rich Sagall for Rich Sagall

Chairperson Sagall accepted the nomination as Chairperson for the Gloucester Board of Health.

MOTION by Mr. Rosa that the Gloucester Board of Health nominate Rob Harris as Vice-Chairperson for the Gloucester Board of Health. **Seconded** by Mr. Cowan. **CARRIED.**

Fred Cowan for Rob Harris
Claudia Schweitzer for Rob Harris
Rob Harris for Rob Harris
Joe Rosa for Rob Harris
Rich Sagall for Rob Harris

Rob Harris accepted the nomination as Vice-Chairperson for the Gloucester Board of Health.

NEW BUSINESS

661 WESTERN AVENUE (MAP 199, LOT 24) – *Ms. Kirchner* gave board members an update of the failed septic system at 661 Western Avenue and the properties failure to comply with a septic upgrade order dated 11/6/2013. She stated that the property has been in failure since 2008. She stated that the property owners had until March 2010 to fix or repair the system. She stated that she sent them an enforcement letter and the deadline to respond to the letter has passed.

The board agreed to have the Health Department visit the residence, then send a letter stating that the property owner has 7 days to comply, if they do not comply the next step will be Housing Court and a condemnation letter.

OLD BUSINESS

ANNUAL REPORT- *Mr. Rosa* provided board members with a draft of the annual report. Board members discussed various edits to the annual report. The board thanked Mr. Rosa for compiling the document.

The Board of Health thanked the staff of the Health Department for their assistance in compiling the data

STRATEGIC PLANNING- *Ms. Burke* stated that she discussed strategic planning at the last meeting and she is trying to identify some more resources to obtain some funds to utilize the contractor. *Chairperson Sagall* stated that the board should have a Long Term Planning Sub-Committee.

Mr. Cowan stated that he would like to purchase name badges for the staff of the Health Department.

CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS

STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON- The board agreed to hold a staff appreciation luncheon on March 13th, 12:30 p.m.

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETINGS- *Ms. Burke* stated that the next Board of Health Meeting will be on February 6th, 2014.

MOTION by Ms. Schweitzer to adjourn.
Seconded by Mr. Cowan. **CARRIED.**
MEETING ADJOURNED – 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by:

Dr. Richard Sagall, Chairperson