

**CITY OF GLOUCESTER
Board of Health
Minutes of the Meeting
February 4, 2016
City Hall Annex
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: Assistant Director: Max Schenk; and Rosalie Nicastro, Food Inspector.

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. Rosa to approve the Gloucester Board of Health minutes of the meeting of January 7th, 2016 as written. **Seconded** by Mr. Cowan. **CARRIED**. Ms. Schweitzer **abstained**.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE GLOUCESTER BOARD OF HEALTH REGULATION “PROHIBITING SMOKING IN WORKPLACES AND PUBLIC PLACES”, REQUIRING THAT RESTAURANTS WHERE SMOKING IS PERMITTED IN OUTDOOR EATING AREAS TO POST A SIGN AT THE ENTRANCE OF THEIR ESTABLISHMENT STATING THEIR POLICY –

Chairperson Sagall asked board members if they want to word the proposed addition to the regulations a little differently. The board agreed that the wording should be that any facility that has an outdoor eating area must post a sign as to whether they allow or do not allow smoking in their outdoor eating areas.

Mr. Schenk stated that he did not receive any feedback from the thirty-two establishments that would be effected by the addition to the regulation. He stated that the current regulation also states that if a restaurant allows smoking in their outdoor seating area there cannot be any wafting of smoke inside the restaurant.

Joyce Redford, Director of the North Shore/Cape Ann Tobacco Control Prevention Program appeared before the board. She stated that it is not only Local law but the State law does not allow tobacco smoke to waft back into a building. She stated that she supports the board in anything they do to educate the public on tobacco smoke.

The board agreed to close the public hearing and continue this item until the next public meeting.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GLOUCESTER BOARD OF HEALTH REGULATION “RESTRICTING THE SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS & NICOTINE DELIVERY PRODUCTS”:

- Paragraph five of section A, “*Statement of Purpose*”;
- Section D (inclusive), “*Tobacco and Nicotine Delivery Product Sales to Minors Prohibited*” changing the minimum age for purchase by an individual from 18 years to 21 years.
- Section O (4) “*Violations*”, removing the word “minor” and replacing it with “persons under the age of 21 years”.

Mr. Schenk stated that there was a change on the definition of a minor. *Chairperson Sagall* stated that in essence they are redefining the word “minor” correctly as anyone under 21 and anywhere the regulation references the word minor they propose to change that to anyone under 21. *Mr. Schenk* stated that the Health Department received two or three support letters, one letter of concern from a tobacco industry representative, and two from the public and one from a representative at the American Heart Association. He stated the only phone calls the Health Department received were from the same individuals that they have letters from.

Jeff Tarr owner of *Jeff’s Variety* on Eastern Avenue in Gloucester appeared before the board in opposition of the proposed regulation change. He stated that he is opposed to any change in the tobacco regulations. He stated that the Board should let the State decide to raise the purchasing age. He stated that this change will hurt his small business because people will go to the next town to buy cigarettes.

Joyce Redford, Director of the North Shore/Cape Ann Tobacco Control Prevention Program appeared before the board. She stated that 85 communities, covering 50% of Massachusetts residents, are moving to 21 as a purchase age for tobacco products. She stated that the Institute of Medicine has addressed the increase to age 21 as a deterrent not only for access but initiation; most people start smoking before they are 18. She stated that social sources are an instrumental part of high school students who interact with younger students who are 14 and 15 years old and raising the age takes that element out. She stated that service men and women who are under 21 have restrictions on alcohol and the commissaries on military bases have stopped selling tobacco products. She stated that she supports the increase in age to purchase tobacco products.

Diane Knight the Director of the Northeast Tobacco-Free Community Partnership which serves the City of Gloucester. She stated that she supports the change in raising the purchase age. She stated that the most compelling reason is that adolescents are particularly susceptible to the addictiveness of tobacco because their brains are still developing. She stated that when a young person starts smoking at a young age it is much harder for them to quit smoking and they smoke much more. She stated that nicotine changes the chemical and structural pathways in the brain which makes a teenager more susceptible to alcohol and other drug addiction as well as mental health issues such as depression.

The board agreed to close the public hearing and to continue this item until the next public meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

BOARD OF HEALTH – ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICECHAIR –

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

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

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

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

Claudia Schweitzer for Rob Harris

Page 3
Minutes of the Board of Health
February 4, 2016
Rob Harris for Rob Harris
Joe Rosa for Rob Harris
Rich Sagall for Rob Harris
Fred Cowan for Rich Sagall

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

REPORT OF BOARD OF HEALTH – HEALTH DIRECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE-

Mr. Cowan submitted the proposed job description to board members. The board reviewed the job description and decided to bullet point the requirements for applying for the position. The board discussed the three requirements: Masters in Public Health MPH or equivalent; and Certified Health Officer CHO or minimum five years work experience; and Registered Sanitarian, RS or become registered within two years. *Mrs. Nicastro* stated she feels it is important for the Health Director to be a registered Sanitarian so they can oversee the whole department. *Ms. Schweitzer* stated that when the Assistant Director position was created it was with the idea that the Assistant Director would have more knowledge in the environmental side of the Health Department. *Mr. Schenk* stated that he feels it is important that the Health Director have at least a sense of the certifications. The board agreed to change the Registered Sanitarian from a “requirement” to a “plus”.

ANNUAL REPORT UPDATE-

Mr. Schenk submitted the rough draft of the Annual Report and highlighted the proposed changes. The board agreed that the Annual Report looked great. *Mr. Schenk* stated that he will have the final draft ready for the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

UPDATES: NORTH SHORE HEALTH PROJECT’S HARM REDUCTION PROGRAMMING-

Mr. Schenk stated that a support letter for the North Shore Health Project’s Harm Reduction Program was drafted, signed, and sent.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented by Max Schenk

Mr. Schenk submitted the following “Monthly Report” to Board members.
[January 2016 - DEPARTMENT REPORT.pdf](#)

CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS

MOSQUITO CONTROL- *Ms. Schweitzer* stated that the board should start addressing the mosquito control issue early especially with all the new mosquito borne illnesses that are coming forth. The board agreed to address the issue. *Mr. Schenk* stated that he will contact the Northeast Mosquito Control Group to gather some information.

MAGNOLIA WOODS- *Mr. Cowan* stated that the DPW would like to put toilets in at the Magnolia Woods on the existing holding tanks that are in the ground. *Mr. Schenk* stated that he will look into the issue. *Chairperson Sagall* stated that there is an app that can direct you to any facilities in your area called Sit or Squat.

DENTAL CENTER- *Mr. Cowan* stated that he asked MIT Dental if they have a surplus chair for the Dental Center and they have agreed to accept our request to donate a chair when available.

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETINGS- *Chairperson Sagall* stated that the next Board of Health Meeting will be on March 3, 2016.

MOTION by Mr. Harris to adjourn.
Seconded by Mr. Cowan. **CARRIED.**
MEETING ADJOURNED – 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by:

Richard Sagall, Chairperson

Documents Referenced:
February 4th, 2016 Board of Health Agenda
January 7th, 2016 Board of Health Minutes
Rough Draft Annual Report
January 2016 Monthly Department Reports