

CITY OF GLOUCESTER
Board of Health
Minutes of the Meeting
December 1, 2016
5:30 p.m.
City Hall Annex
3 Pond Road
Gloucester, MA 01930

Board members present: Chairperson: Dr. Richard Sagall; Vice–Chairperson: Robert Harris; Frederick Cowan; and Claudia Schweitzer. Present from the Health Department: Health Director: Karin Carroll; and Assistant Director: Max Schenk. Absent: Joe Rosa.

This meeting is being recorded by audio in accordance with State Open Meeting Law.

PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATION

There was no "Public Oral Communication".

Mr. Schenk stated that Bruce Nichols, property owner for 41 School Street had asked to attend the Board of Health. He stated that he told Mr. Nichols he could speak to the Board of Health during the "Public Oral Communication" portion of the agenda and make a statement regarding his concerns about the Health Department's enforcement at 41 School Street. He stated that Mr. Nichols came to the Board of Health Meeting in the CATA Conference Room Health Department at approximately 5:15 and he, Ms. Carroll, and Jay Martell were present during the confrontation. He stated that Mr. Nichols came in upset that he had spent the day at Salem District Court trying to talk to the judge and he started to elevate his demeanor and his voice. He stated that once Mr. Nichols started to curse, for the protection and safety of everyone involved, he asked Mr. Nichols if he would like to wait and speak at the meeting or he could call law enforcement. He stated that Mr. Nichols stated that he would see him in court and stormed out. He stated that the administration has advised the Health Department that any time they interact with Mr. Nichols they request that a police officer be present; hence the officer present in the audience. He gave board members an overview of the enforcement issue at the property.

Jay Martel appeared before the Board of Health. He stated that he witnessed Mr. Nichols come into the Health Department very aggressively and inappropriately towards Mr. Schenk and Ms. Carroll. He stated that it was handled very delicately and politely by the Health Department staff.

Ms. Carroll stated that the City's General Counsel has asked that all correspondence regarding the issue go directly through his office.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Cowan to approve the Gloucester Board of Health minutes of the meeting of November 3rd, 2016 as written. **Seconded** by Dr. Sagall. **CARRIED.**

NEW BUSINESS

19 Maplewood Ave (Map 26/Lot 71) Jay Martel, property owner –

Request for temporary variance to section 4 (C) of the Gloucester Board of Health Certificate of Rental Dwelling Regulation, in order to issue a certificate while the owner effects repairs to exterior staircases.

Jay Martel, owner of 19 Maplewood Avenue appeared before the board.

Mr. Schenk gave board members an overview of the variance request. He recommended that a roll-out fire ladder be placed on the second floor.

Mr. Cowan asked if the dwelling was sprinkled. *Mr. Martel* stated that the dwelling is not sprinkled.

Mr. Cowan asked if there were any children in the building. *Mr. Martel* responded yes, in all three apartments.

Mr. Cowan requested that *Mr. Martel* consult with Deputy Fire Chief, Andrew McRobb on the suitability for the alternative plans for fire safety.

Chairperson Sagall asked if there was anyone that would like to speak for or against this variance. There was no one.

MOTION by *Mr. Harris* that the Gloucester Board of Health issue the variance, as written on the agenda on December 1, 2016, for 19 Maplewood Avenue for the period of six months, under the conditions that the stairs are blocked off; there are signs stating "do not use stairs"; there are check-ins with the Health Department every two months; and there is a consultation with the Fire Chief to ensure that the fire ladder is suitable. **Seconded** by *Ms. Schweitzer*. **CARRIED.**

OLD BUSINESS

Update on 1 Pilot's Hill Condemnation Order-

Mr. Schenk stated that the Health Department received an update from a contractor that has been working with *Mr. Aro*, the owner of 1 Pilot's Hill, in regards to getting the water and sewer reconnected as well as getting the site cleaned up. He stated that the water and sewer lines are in and he is waiting for a plumber to come and get a connection to the house. He stated that *Mr. Aro* is in the process of working with National Grid to get the heat back on. He stated that a dumpster arrived at the property today. He thanked *Dick Cooper Cooper Associates*, for working with *Mr. Aro* to ensure compliance is occurring.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented by *Max Schenk*

The following "Monthly Report" to Board members.

Ms. Carroll stated that there was a strategic planning exercise with a contribution from *Lahey*. She stated that the Health Department staff survey results are in the boards' packet. She stated that they could look at the data in the new year.

Ms. Carroll highlighted data from the Gloucester Health Need Assessment for board members.

Ms. Carroll stated that there is information on the legalization of marijuana in their packets.

Mr. Schenk stated that *Ms. Ries* is holding a Holiday Diaper Drive. Diapers can be donated at City Hall, City Hall Annex, the Senior Center, the Fire station, or the Manchester Athletic Club.

CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS

Dog Waste at the Gloucester Beaches – *Chairperson Sagall* welcomed City Councilor *Val Gilman* to the meeting. He stated that according to the current ordinance there is no legal way to dispose of dog feces.

Councilor Gilman gave board members some background information of the issue. She stated that she spent much time collecting Best Practices from coastal communities. She stated that she is the captain of the Mutt Mitts volunteer team and the team helps refill the containers that are placed around the City. She stated that the volunteer group has been very successful in partnership with the DPW. She stated that there are a couple issues that they are dealing with. She stated that the DPW following their own *Carry In- Carry Out Beach Regulation*, has not put barrels out at the beaches during the off season. She stated that in the dog ordinance it does state that feces are not allowed in barrels but in section 4-21 regarding off-leash dogs at the beaches it does say that containers will be on the beach for disposal.

Ms. Carroll asked if there were barrels at the dog park that were collected by the city. *Councilor Gilman* responded that there are barrels at the park that the DPW collects. Likewise, DPW maintains barrels on The Boulevard and a barrel at the entrance to Goose Cove Reservoir's perimeter track.

Councilor Gilman stated that they make plastic barrels called Doggie Pods that have a locked top with a tiny little hole in the top just big enough for a bag to fit through. The pods too are designed to be stable in high winds. She stated that they are about \$250 and they are looking into funds to purchase three of these for the beaches.

Mr. Cowan asked what the additional cost would be to the DPW to pick up the barrels at the beaches. *Councilor Gilman* responded that the DPW has been doing it for the last three or four years and the three barrels would need to be maintained two or three times a week one at Wingersheek and one at each end of Good Harbor.

The board thanked Councilor Gilman for her work on the issue and supports her coalition. *Chairperson Sagall* signed a letter of support on behalf of the entire Board of Health.

Toxic Vapor Liquids- *Chairperson Sagall* submitted an article to board members regarding the toxicity of flavored vaping liquids. A flavor's ingredient is unregulated.

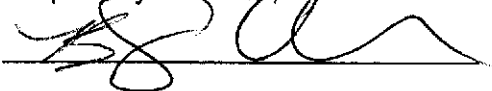
Letter from Resident- *Ms. Schweitzer* stated that she wanted to alert people that a friend of hers was feeling very frustrated after the election and she decided to write a letter to the City Council and the Mayor suggesting that they release a public statement reinforcing the belief that Gloucester is humane and welcoming community that respects all of its citizens and visitors and will not tolerate acts of hatred or violence. She stated that she will share the letter with board members.

City's Response to Disgruntled People at Public Events - *Mr. Cowan* asked if there was any progress with the City's response to the request for training sessions for persons who must deal with disgruntled people at public events and/or public places. *Mr. Schenk* stated that the issue is being addressed by the newly formed City Workplace Safety and Wellness Committee.

Next Regular Monthly Meeting Board of Health- The next Board of Health monthly meeting will be on January 5, 2017 at the CATA Training Room at 5:30 p.m.

MOTION by Mr. Harris to adjourn.
Seconded by Mr. Cowan. **CARRIED.**
MEETING ADJOURNED – 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Sagall", is written over a horizontal line.

Richard Sagall, Chairperson

Documents Referenced:

- December 1, 2016 Board of Health Agenda
- November 3, 2016 Board of Health Minutes
- December 2016 Monthly Department Reports