

**CITY OF GLOUCESTER  
Board of Health  
Minutes of the Meeting  
January 11, 2018  
5:30 p.m.  
City Hall Annex  
3 Pond Road  
Gloucester, MA 01930**

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

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**

*Chairperson Sagall* stated that the Board will defer the Board of Health Minutes of the December 7, 2017 until the February meeting.

**MOTION** by Mr. Harris to approve the Gloucester Board of Health Septic Review Subcommittee minutes of the meeting of November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 as written. **Seconded** by Mr. Rosa. **CARRIED.**

**MOTION** by Mr. Harris to approve the Gloucester Board of Health Septic Review Subcommittee minutes of the meeting of December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 as written. **Seconded** by Mr. Rosa. **CARRIED.**

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Septic Review Subcommittee Report for November 2017- *Mr. Rosa* read the following report:

“At its meeting of December 19, 2017 the Septic Review Subcommittee reviewed and voted 3-in favor, none opposed, to approve the septic system upgrade plans and requests for variances for the following properties:

- 729 Western Avenue (Map 194, Lot 23)
- 42 Eastern Point Boulevard (Map 234, Lot 70)
- 10 Magnolia Avenue (Map 170, Lot 6)”

**NEW BUSINESS**

Vote for Board of Health Chair and Vice-Chair-

**MOTION** by MS Schweitzer 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

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  
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.

James L. Tolman of 655 Essex Avenue Regarding Enforcement Order July 14, 2017 Trash in Yard of Property Located at 654R Essex Avenue (Map 238/Lot 11)-

*Mr. Schenk* stated that the issue at 654R Essex Avenue is a long standing issue that came to Health Department originally in 2013. He gave a brief overview of the issues at the property and the concerns from the abutters. He stated that a certified enforcement letter was sent to the property owner in July of 2017 stating that the materials on the property needed to be cleared.

*Mr. Costonis* stated that materials, ladder and dilapidated house remnants on the property as attractive nuisances. He stated that he cannot determine if the debris is attracting rodents because he cannot access the property.

*Mr. Schenk* stated that because there was a building on the property there is believed to be a former cesspool and a well on site so the Health Department needs to ensure they are properly decommissioned.

*Steven Mitchell* of 652 Essex Avenue appeared before the board. He stated he has lived next to this property for 38 years and he said when the original complaint was filed it bounced from department to department and nothing was really done. He stated that the debris on the

property is a safety issue. He stated that four years ago they put a ladder up on the property to cut a limb down and ladder has been leaning against the tree since that time.

*Ken Whittaker* the Conservation Agent for the City of Gloucester appeared before the board. He stated that the whole area is wetlands and the entire area is in the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission. He stated that it is a problem that they have been dealing with for some time as well. He stated that approximately two years ago DEP got involved. He stated that they settled in a decent decree with both Chatwood (the previous owner) and Tolman to cease and desist certain activities. He stated that the order with DEP is prohibiting them from moving forward.

*Richard Hersey* an abutter at 650R Essex Avenue appeared before the board. He stated that the property is a blight in their neighborhood.

*Mr. Schenk* recommended that the Health Department draft a letter to the owner of the property outlining the items discussed and the boards' concerns such as the ladder, the well, the septic system, and the removal of the potential harborage for rodents and animals.

**MOTION** by Mr. Rosa that the Health Department draft a letter to the owner of 654R Essex Avenue outlining the concerns at the property such as the ladder, the well, the septic system, and the removal of the potential harborage for rodents and animals with the timeframe of thirty days to address the concerns. **Seconded** by Ms. Schweitzer. **CARRIED**.

Presentation by Public Health Nurse Kelley Hiland Regarding North Shore Mother Visiting Partnership-

*Ms. Hiland* gave a presentation on the North Shore Mother Visiting Partnership. She stated that the partnership is made up of 5 public health nurses from Beverly, Gloucester, Newburyport, Hamilton, and Peabody, and they offer a supported, free one time visit to caregivers of newborns. She stated that they would ideally like to see families within the first 12 weeks but would see families up to a year. She stated that they aim to bring support care and community connection. She stated that there is no eligibility criteria. She stated that the visit is free and confidential. She stated that all newborns will get a baby box to promote safe sleeping for babies.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no "Old Business".

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

Presented by Karin Carroll and Max Schenk

The following “Monthly Report” was given to Board members.

[January Monthly Department Report](#)

*Ms. Carroll* stated that she had a discussion with Chairperson Sagall regarding communications to Board members. She stated that they will summarize the monthly report and highlight significant violations or complaints. She stated that all grant will continue to be mentioned. She stated that if any board members are going to meet with City Councilors or City Administrators they can check in prior to the meeting with herself or Mr. Schenk as well as after the meeting.

*Ms. Carroll* stated that the Extreme Weather Planning Group is a large committee composed of mostly social service agencies. She stated that Mr. Schenk wrote a policy two years ago and it really brought together the agencies when there is a storm coming.

*Ms. Carroll* stated that there was a study done regarding the noise complaint at Americold. She stated that the results of that study concluded that there was a finding at one of the three sites that it was over the City ordinance. She stated that the violation will go to the new owner when they change hands.

*Ms. Carroll* stated that they just hired Rachael Alexis as the part-time SAPSY Coordinator.

*Ms. Carroll* stated that the Health Department has had a lot of earned media. She stated that they were in the Boston Globe in December for the Health Coalition Targets Guns article in the Globe North. She stated that they were on Health Chat with Nikki Mullen from Lacey Behavioral Services discussing stress and the holidays and touched on substance abuse.

*Ms. Hiland* stated that the flu has been ramping up. She stated that there have been 21 confirmed cases in Gloucester since January 1, 2018. She stated that the CDC is estimating a component of the flu vaccine, influenza A virus (H3N2), is 30% effective. She stated that if you get the vaccine and then get the flu, your symptoms can be significantly less and more manageable than if you did not get vaccinated.

**CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Rats- *Ms. Schweitzer* stated rats are still an issue in the City. She stated that public education is important around the issue.

Next Regular Monthly Meeting Board of Health- The next Board of Health monthly meeting will be on February 1, 2018 at the CATA Training Room at 5:30 p.m.

**MOTION** by Mr. Harris to adjourn.

Seconded by Ms. Schweitzer. **CARRIED.**  
MEETING ADJOURNED – 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by:

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Richard Sagall, Chairperson

Documents Referenced:

January, 2018 Board of Health Agenda  
December 7, 2017 Board of Health Minutes  
November 14, 2017 SRS Minutes  
December 7, 2017 SRS Report  
January 2018 Monthly Department Reports