

CITY OF GLOUCESTER
Board of Health
Minutes of the Meeting
December 14, 2023
5:30 p.m.
Harbormaster's Office Conference Room &
Hybrid Meeting Via Zoom

Board members present: Chairperson: Joseph Rosa; Vice-Chairperson: Dr. Eric Kaplan; Thor Akerley; Dr. Don Ganim; and Thor Akerley. Absent: Marco Palazzolo.

Also present: Health Director: Dominique Hurley; Sanitarian: Lesley Whelan; Regional Prevention Director: Chelsea Goldstein-Walsh; Health & Food Inspector: Jake Taylor; Health Inspector: Brie Gray; Public Health Nurse: Cindy Juncker; and Financial Specialist: Lee O'Leary.

The meeting started at 5:30 p.m.

Public Oral Communication

There was no "Public Oral Communication".

Approval of Minutes

MOTION by Dr. Kaplan to approve the Gloucester Board of Health minutes of the meeting of November 2, 2023 as written. **Seconded** by Dr. Ganim. **CARRIED.**

MOTION by Dr. Kaplan to approve the Gloucester Board of Health minutes of the meeting of November 16, 2023 as written. **Seconded** by Dr. Ganim. **CARRIED.**

MOTION by Mr. Rosa to change the order of the agenda. **Seconded** by Dr. Kaplan. **CARRIED.**

Sunny's Smoke Shop at 42 Washington Street; Request for Hearing for a Smoke Shop Violation Appeal

Joyce Redford, Director, North Shore/Cape Ann Tobacco Policy Program appeared before the board. She gave an overview of the violation at Sunny's Smoke Shop. She stated that the minor was able to enter the store and under state law anyone under the age of 21 cannot cross the threshold of the establishment.

Sunny Patel, owner of Sunny's Smoke Shop, appeared before the board. He stated that he is willing to get a buzzer system installed for \$2,500. He stated that his employee was drinking water when the minor walked in and by the time she put the water down and asked for identification the minor was over the threshold.

The board discussed the violation and the addition of a buzzer on the door.

MOTION by Mr. Rosa that the Gloucester Board of Health require Sunny's Smoke Shop to install a buzzer on the door within thirty days to prevent minors from entering the establishment. **Seconded** by Dr. Ganim. **CARRIED. Unanimous approval.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Food Inspections- *Mr. Taylor* reported that they had two complaints, completed 66 inspections, 4 re-inspections due to violations, and inspected 1 event in November.

Housing Inspections- *Ms. Gray* reported that they had 28 rental inspections in 15 buildings; 5 complaints, and 10 facility inspections in November.

Title 5 Inspections- *Ms. Whelan* submitted the Title 5 tasks that she has been working on to board members.

Health Director- *Ms. Hurley* stated that she has been spending a lot of time doing team planning and also assessing their inspectional services. She stated that after they hire the Public Health Nurse we will likely still employ Cindy Juncker as adjunctive clinical support. She stated that she has been working on emergency preparedness planning. She stated that she and Ms. Juncker attended a cybersecurity training.

Ms. Hurley stated that she has been looking at needs for the city and at understanding what the community requires. She stated that she received some funds to complete a needs assessment.

Ms. Hurley stated that the Kondelin Road project has been put on hold by the applicant. As of the afternoon of Friday 11/17, the Applicant has requested a hold on the application. The technical review and Suitability Report submission deadline will be shifted beyond the 60-day review period. We do not have an estimate from the DEP as to when the technical review should be complete, as that is dependent upon the Notice of Project Change submission to MEPA and related review and decision by MEPA, as well as, submission of additional information to MassDEP.

Ms. Hurley stated that she has been working with the Prevention Team and the audit staff in the Finance Department to try and figure out how to best keep things moving.

Communicable Disease Reporting-

COVID-19 numbers can be found at the [city website](#).

Ms. Juncker stated that the city had 75 communicable diseases reported in the month of November. She stated that she still has vaccines available if anyone wants a vaccine they can

contact the Health Department. She stated that the state of Massachusetts has detected an outbreak of Hepatitis A among drug users and the homeless. She stated that there has been an increase in COVID-19 and flu cases in the state. She stated that she is still offering the program for new mothers.

Prevention Reporting- *Ms. Goldstein-Walsh* stated that the prevention team has been working on strategic planning for the Department of Public Health grant. She stated that they just hosted a youth mental health first aid training last Thursday. She stated that they have been working on increasing their youth participation at the schools. She stated that they are working with the schools to create some meetings in a box for young people.

CONCERNS OF THE BOARD

Medical Insurance- *Dr. Kaplan* stated that he used GoodRx at the pharmacy when picking up a prescription and it had saved him quite a bit of money.

Next Regular Monthly Meeting Board of Health- The next regular Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 5:30 pm.

MOTION by Mr. Akerley to adjourn.
Seconded by Dr. Kaplan. **CARRIED.**
MEETING ADJOURNED – 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

_____/S/ Bobbi Orlando_____

Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by:

_____/S/ Joe Rosa_____

Joe Rosa, Chairperson

Documents Referenced:

December 14, 2023 Board of Health Agenda

BOH Minutes of November 2, 2023

BOH Minutes of November 16, 2023

HD November Monthly Report

