



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

PAULETTE RENAULT-CARAGIANES
DIRECTOR

MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
Regular Meeting/Rodent Hearing

August 16, 2012
5:00 pm
City Hall Annex Conference Room

Present: Paulette Renault-Caragianes (Health Director)
Dr. Brian Green, Board Member (Chair)
Babette Mello, Board Member
Paula Machado, Board Member
Kathy Henkle (Recording Secretary)

Absent: None

Staff Members in Attendance: Cory Mashburn, Director Somerville Office of Prevention

Guests: Bigelow Coop Day Care:
Melinda Weber, Director, Sarah Smolik, Executive Board President and Gary Wolfe, Parent

City Staff:
Edward Nuzzo, ISD Director –Rodent Hearing
Ellen Collins, ISD Operations’ Manager –Rodent Hearing
David Shapiro, Assistant City Solicitor, Law Office –Rodent Hearing
Alderman William Roche – Ward 1 –Rodent Hearing

Meeting Called to Order: by Dr Green and seconded by Ms. Mello at 5:07 pm.

Previous Minutes: On a motion made by Dr. Green and seconded by Ms. Mello:
“The July 12, 2012 Minutes were approved as circulated.” **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Variance Request: Bigelow Cooperative Daycare Center came before the Board, requesting a variance to allow off site preparation of communal lunch to be served at the school. Bigelow has a long history of operation in Cambridge and is relocating to Somerville in early September 2012. Present at the meeting were Melinda Weber, Director, Sarah Smolik, Executive Board President and Gary Wolfe, Parent.

It was explained that parents take turns making lunch for the entire classroom which could be between 7 to 14 children, and that values of the school are incorporated into this long time practice. Ms Renault-Caragianes gave an overview of conversations and information gathering conducted by the Health Department in researching the merits of this request. For example, the City of Cambridge Inspectional Services Division provided information that provided historic data re: inspections of the soon to be ex location that demonstrated competency in food safety practices by Bigelow staff and parents. To insure food safety as a some of the conditions of this variance include:

Bigelow agreed to educate the parents on safe food preparation and handling practices, including transport, receiving and reheating food as well as requiring allergen awareness training.

At all times, full time employee of Bigelow trained and certified in Food Protection Management will be on site as person in charge.

It was emphasized that routine inspections will be conducted as is the case with other food service establishments and that failure to comply with the requirements in the variance could result in revocation of the variance.

Dr. Green made a motion to grant Bigelow Cooperative Daycare Center a variance under conditions noted in the attached document. A vote was taken, and all 3 board members voted in favor of the variance.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Medical

Marijuana Ballot Initiative Information: Cory Mashburn Office of Prevention Director gave a short presentation to the board members on the currently proposed “medical” marijuana law for Massachusetts that will appear as an initiative on the November 2012 ballot. Presentation highlights include:

This initiative would allow non-medical employees to distribute marijuana, instead of doctors, nurses, or pharmacists. A cardholder can legally carry up to a 60-day supply. This amount is undefined by the law, but we know that one ounce equals 60 – 120 joints. Under the proposed legislation, people would be allowed to grow pot in their home if they live in an inconvenient distance from a dispensary. However, the proposed law does not define that distance and this creates an enormous dilemma for regulation and oversight. Anyone can get marijuana, not just the terminally ill. In California students are allowed to bring their “medical” marijuana to school. The current proposed law states that Massachusetts schools are not required to allow “medical” marijuana in school, however it is likely that each school district may have to deal with this issue if parents are allowing their children to use marijuana and finally regardless of Massachusetts law, marijuana remains illegal under federal law. If Massachusetts allows medical marijuana and sells it through state-sponsored shops, federal funding could be endangered due to violation of federal laws, impacting education, transportation, and other areas. It was noted that there is already “medical marijuana” like substances available at pharmacies via prescription under the name Marinol. Other drugs like the Sativex mouth spray are close to being approved for the terminally ill. A video shown in California that provided an overview of several licensed dispensaries was shown to the BOH to end the presentation.

After Mr. Mashburn’s presentation, Dr Green made a motion to suspend the remainder of the agenda in order to begin the Public Hearing on rodent control.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rodent Control Public Hearing: was held at 6pm – see attachment for the minutes to this hearing.

Next Meeting: September 20, 2012 @ 5:00 pm

Adjournment: A motion was made by Dr. Green to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 pm, seconded by Ms. Mello.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Henkle (Recording Secretary)
August 23, 2012