

MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH

December 17, 2009

5:00pm

City Hall Annex Conference Room

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

Staff Members in Attendance: Jason Dodd, Tobacco Control Director;
Sonja Darai, Commissions' Director

Guests: Mr. Pushpir Bhetia, Guru the Caterer Owner; Paul Gibbs, General Contractor;
Peter Mirandi, Registered Sanitarian

A motion was made by Dr. Green and seconded by Ms. Machado to call the meeting to order at 5:10 pm.

Previous Minutes: On a motion made by Ms. Mello and seconded by Ms. Machado; *"The November 19, 2009 Minutes were approved as circulated."*

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Variance Approval: The owner of Guru the Caterer came in front of the board seeking a variance. According to the state food code; a variance is required when a business does a cook, chill process, which is putting cooked food in a bag and seal it off then, transports it to another location. A motion was made by Dr. Green and seconded by Ms. Mello to grant a variance according to 105CMR 590.004 and the 1999 Food Code 3-502.11 variance requirements to Guru the Caterer.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

H1NI/Seasonal Flu Vaccines Updates: The Health Department was notified by the state that the H1N1 restrictions have been lifted. The H1NI vaccine is now available to everyone. The public health nurses have administered 868 seasonal flu vaccines, 267 H1NI; and in the schools, 328 seasonal and 360 H1NI were administered. No more seasonal vaccines will be delivered to the Health Dept. We will continue to hold flu clinics on Thursdays in January from 4-7 pm at the Health Department. National Vaccine Week is the week of January 11, 2010.

Snow Committee Update: Walkboston and Tufts Medical Center, along with community participants, ADA Coordinator, injury preventions specialists make up the snow committee. Ms. Darai passed out literature and samples of what the committee has done so far. There will be brochures educating residents on what their responsibilities are to clear their sidewalks after a snowstorm. They have door hangers and bookmarks that will be available at the libraries. To get the word out, they are working on getting this

information out through tv/cable, magnets, tabling at Target. Next stage in the game plan is to get these documents translated.

Tobacco Control: The board members signed a letter stating that Jason Dodd as an agent of the Somerville Board of Health for the purpose of enforcing tobacco regulations. Compliance checks in Somerville have been completed and a list was given to the board members for review.

Health Department Updates: Scap will be releasing the results of the student health surveys in the middle schools (Grades 6,7,8). The survey showed decrease in alcohol, drugs, tobacco use, and sexual activities. This survey is done alternate years, one year the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders take the survey then the Somerville High School students take the survey. The Clinical Youth Specialist, Patricia Contente, is working on revamping how to get more people interested in the programs' workshops on mental illness/well-being. The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) had training on December 26, 2009, which was well attended. Ms. Darai continues to try recruit members for her commissions.

Director's Report: On a motion made by Ms. Mello and seconded by Ms. Machado, the Director's November Report, was accepted.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Open Meeting Law Changes: The open meeting law will have some changes taking effect on July 1, 2010. The city's Law Office will be conducting training for all staff, board members, and anyone else whose work involves open and or public meetings. This training will probably be held early spring.

Other Business: The Health Director made a suggestion to the board members that she thought it would be a good idea if the Board of Health were furnished with Sanitary Code Reports from restaurants that did not pass their inspections. This report would come from the ISD division supplied by their administrative support personnel Donna Pickett.

The next meeting will be held on January 21, 2009 at 50 Evergreen Avenue, 1st floor Conference Room at 5 pm.

A motion was made by Ms. Mello and seconded by Ms. Machado to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Henkle (Recording Secretary)
December 23, 2009