



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
*HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT*

JOSEPH A. CURTATONE  
MAYOR

DOUGLAS KRESS  
DIRECTOR

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF HEALTH**

Regular Meeting

February 26, 2015

5:00pm

Conference Room @ Somerville Hospital  
236 Highland Avenue

**Present:** Douglas Kress, Director (via telephone)  
Dr. Brian Green, Board Member (Chair)  
Babette Mello, Board Member  
Paula Machado, Board Member  
Kathy Teixeira (Recording Secretary)

**Absent:** None

**Staff Members in Attendance:** Ben Lipham, ISD Health Division, Ellen Collins, ISD Health Division,  
Bonny Carroll, Tobacco Control, Dina McCarron, Public Health Nurse

**Guests:** DJ Wilson, Mass Municipal Association's Tobacco Control Director

**Meeting Called to Order:** by Dr. Green and seconded by Ms. Mello @ 5:05pm.

**Previous Minutes:** On a motion made by Dr. Green and seconded by Ms. Machado: "The January 15, Minutes were approved as circulated."  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Tobacco Control:** Vape Shops/Stores are independent stores that specialize in selling both the e-cigarette hardware and nicotine solutions used in electronic devices. Some vape shops mix on-site the solutions with different flavorings and nicotine strengths. The regulations were updated to reflect the issues on vape stores, whereas the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has classified liquid nicotine in any amount as an acutely hazardous waste (310 CMR 30.136). The Definitions as presented to the board, Liquid Nicotine Container, Retail Tobacco Store, Tobacco Product and Out of Packaging Sales, were updated to include vape shops/stores into the current tobacco regulations.

Dr. Green made a motion to adopt and to accept the new languages on definitions and out of package sales to the current tobacco regulations effective May 1, 2015. Ms. Mello seconded it.

A vote was taken and all were in favor.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ISD/Health Division Updates:** The Reduced Oxygen Packaging Variance Regulations draft was reviewed by the board members. Mr. Lipham gave a brief overview and stated due to the complexity of rop and granting such a complicated variance and on page 4 it states, "The establishment owner must hire a consultant that is able to draft a rop variance which is easily enforceable, easily understood, and has specific language that insure that what they are following will keep

their food safe. Dr. Green would like the language on page 4 "Fine for Violation" in keeping with all other variances are done. Mr. Lipham and Ms. Collins will do more research and bring the draft back to the Law Office to address the board concerns. It was recommended that we have a representative from the Law Office attend our meeting in March.

**Temporary Food Service Permitting:** The proposal regulation for temporary food service permitting is currently in the Law Office for review for legalities. Hopefully the final draft will be presented to the board at their next meeting.

**Other:** – The state has passed new pot luck regulations.

**Variance/Hearing Requests:** – There were no requests for variances or hearings for the month of February 2015.

**Restaurant Inspections – January 2015:** Ms. Collins is working with Citizenserve to implement a restaurant inspection report that will be distributed to the board members monthly for review. Ms. Teixeira, once trained, will process the report and give to board members going forward.

Pest Control - David Napastek discouraged the board going after business' licenses to get after pest control companies who are not doing what they are suppose to do. He suggested that the city just leaned harder on the establishment owners' for their violations due to pests, be strict about enforcement.

Mr. Kress, the Director of Health & Human Services suggested that the city implement a rating system for restaurants for example restaurants would be rated with A, B, C, etc. to protect the consumer.

**Review 911 Emergency Calls:** – The 911 data was reviewed and it was noted that opiate usage was down but alcohol abuse was up.

**Health Department Updates:** A new Director, Doug Kress, was recently hired. The City's Annual Rabies Clinic will be held on April 11, 2015. Ms. McCarron and Mr. Lipham will hold pre-season camp meetings to go over the state regulations with the 2 camps that were licensed last year.

**Next Meetings:** March 26, 2015

Location - Somerville Hospital - Cafeteria Conference Room – 2nd Floor @ 5:00pm.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Dr. Green to adjourn the meeting at 6:30pm and seconded by Ms. Mello.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Teixeira (Recording Secretary)  
March 11, 2015