

MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH

June 24, 2010

5:00 pm

City Hall Annex Conference Room

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

Absent: Paula Machado, Board Member

Staff Members in Attendance: None

Guests: Maureen Lee, Restaurant Inspector working for ISD/Health Division; Steven Azar from SPCD; Liz Flowers, Nicole Leger, Kevin Mcainness, Ryan Boyd, Liz Alessi, and Tia Reynolds (all students from Regis College) who came to observe a meeting

Meeting Called to Order: by Dr Green and seconded by Ms. Mello at 5:06pm.

Previous Minutes: On a motion made by Ms. Mello and seconded by Dr. Green:

“The May 20, 2010 Minutes were approved as circulated.”

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Food Establishment Violations: Maureen Lee has been with the city since March 2005, and works 2 days a week. She has completed 70 routine inspections. Maureen, along with Angela Allen, who is from Somerstat. and is assigned to the ISD during the reorganization of the department have reviewed and revised the current applications for establishments. A plan review packet has been implemented to give to new establishments. The advantage of this packet helps the establishments to avoid violations once they are open. The requirements for mobile vendors have also been reviewed and have been given to them so they can get their trucks into compliance. Through the permit process, Maureen is identifying ice-cream manufacturing and putting a list together and will move forward because they have different regulations that they need to follow. The trends during the inspections are sink use has been a tremendous problem, refrigeration always a concern. There have been 2 closures for refrigeration violations and 1 closure for pest related problems. Most establishments have been receptive and they want to do the right thing. According to the food establishment’s permit, the city is required to do 2 routines and 2 reinspections. If the city has to go to an establishment more than that it is looking into charging them for the additional inspections to get them into compliance. New Asia has been closed for 2 years and they wish to reopen, Maureen went to do a pre-operational inspection and they were not in compliance. Ms. Lee made a recommendation that the owner of New Asia come before the Board before she is issue a permit.

Biotechnology: Stephen Azar, from SPCD presented a pamphlet on Biotechnology to the Board Members. Any regulations associated with biotechnology in the City have to

come before the board. If a biotech company wants to come into the City of Somerville first they would need a biotech friendly building. They would need to come in front of the planning board, and the Health Board would review the building according to the guidelines that are already in place.

Kiosks – Medications and Syringes Disposal Update: Chief Cabral has given the responsibility of the kiosk to one of his officer and he will be in contact with the Health Director to get this program up and running. The needle disposal kiosks at Cambridge Health Alliance on Central Street have been funded by the state for the next fiscal year 2011. The Health Department has a contract with a hazardous waste hauler that comes to the department to dispose of syringes.

Health Department Updates:

FY2011 Budget: The Health Budget was presented to the Board of Aldermen. Some of the health staff paid through grants will have part of their salaries charged to the city appropriations. The mayor has mandated that non-union employees will have their salaries furloughed.

School Nursing: The health department received a letter from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Education. Technically school nurses who are employed by Health Departments do not have to have a Bachelor Degree in Nursing. We will work with the Personnel Department to revised job description which says; “Bachelor Degree preferred but not required. Most nurses have an Associates Degree and hopefully they will apply for the school nurse vacant positions.

Rodent Taskforce: There has been a spike in rodent complaints due to a lot of construction going on in the city. The taskforce has been put back into place.

Shape-Up-Somerville: was awarded a small grant from the American Heart Association.

Director’s Report: On a motion made by Ms. Mello and seconded by Dr. Green, “*The Director’s May Report was approved as circulated.*”

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Old Business: Nothing to Report.

New Business: None

Next Meeting: July 29, 2010 at 5pm - 50 Evergreen Avenue, 1st floor Conference Room

Adjournment: A motion was made by Dr. Green and seconded by Ms. Mello to adjourn the meeting at 6:08pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Henkle (Recording Secretary)
July 15, 2010