



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

JOSEPH A. CURTATONE

MAYOR

PAULETTE RENAULT-CARAGIANES

DIRECTOR

MINUTES

BOARD OF HEALTH

Regular Meeting

November 15, 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: Ellen Collins and Edward Nuzzo, ISD

Guests: One Resident from the Rodent Test Pilot Program

Meeting Called to Order: by Ms. Mello and seconded by Ms. Machado at 5:25 pm.

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

"The October 18, 2012 Minutes were approved as circulated."

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Variance Request: None

Rodent Pilot Project Update/Hearing: Ms. Collins gave a brief overview on why rats are a public health concern and what homeowners can do to control the problem. The results of the pilot project were as follows:

- 1.) 48 Residential & Commercial properties were inspected, along with Ed Leathers Park and the MBTA Rail bed.
- 2.) 13 Trash tickets were issued
- 3.) 7 overgrowth tickets were issued
- 4.) 6 orders to bait issued

Evidence found was as follows:

- 1.) No issues – 65%
- 2.) One issue or More – 35%
- 3.) Other – 6%
- 4.) Overgrowth – 17%



- 5.) Trash – 25%
- 6.) Runways/Gnawing/Droppings – 4%
- 7.) Burrow Holes – 6%

The MBTA cooperated and cleaned up their tracks and only 2 burrow holes were found, no food was found just lots of debris.

Public Comments – Resident from Gilman Street stated since the pilot project ended, she has not seen any rats. Ed Nuzzo also said that his office has not gotten any calls from the pilot area in 4 weeks. According to Ed Nuzzo, this project was a success. All the neighbors got together did their part and are happy about the results.

Grease Trap Regulations Update– tabled till next meeting

Temporary Food Permitting Update: On-going talks between the OHCD, ISD, and Health Department on how to regulate, inspect, and getting adequate staffing. This year winter market vendors had to attend an orientation if they wish to participate in the market.

Mobile Food Truck Policies Update: The Board of Aldermen will look at applications first. At this time no one has applied for a mobile food truck permits.

Marijuana Ballot Question #3 Update:

Question 3 has passed. The state senators and representatives will write letters to the US Attorney General about how it's against the federal law. There is a legislation that is going to go in to extend the start date to either 6 months to a year. Town of Reading had a town meeting to try to ban the dispensaries. The question 3 passed in Reading but of course the residents don't want the pot shops in their backyard. Frank Wright, the City's Solicitor, is currently working on an ordinance in the town of Melrose. The City of Quincy has an ordinance on the table where marijuana dispensaries cannot be within 1500 feet of schools, parks, residential neighborhoods and any place that sells alcohol. The city of Somerville will also look at their zoning ordinances to see how this ties in. It was noted that law enforcement will have to revisit or redefine what under the influence and or impairment guidelines would be relative to marijuana

Restaurant Inspections – October 2012: The restaurant inspections were reviewed by the board. There has been more staff added to help Maureen Lee do inspections. ISD received an inquiry from a person who wants to open up a business where they make baby food using a kitchen already licensed in a restaurant. They wanted to know what they needed to do to get permitting. The city contacted the State Food Protection Unit about what they know about this type of business and they have not had anything like this happen in the state so far. The person who wants to make the baby food is also an employee of the restaurant. Will this be a shared facility arrangement which is another item never dealt with.

Health Department Updates: We are in the final phrase for the Shape-Up-Somerville Director interviews. Three candidates will have formal interviews with the Mayor. We had a site visit with the Project Officer with the Healthy Kids, Healthy Community grant which will end in a couple of weeks. Preparations are in the works for Martin Luther King Day event in January coordinated by Sonja Darai, Commissions Director. The Roadmaps to Health winners will probably be announce by the end of November, early December.

On a motion made by Dr. Green and seconded by Ms. Mello, ***“The Health Updates were approved as circulated”***
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 18, 2012 @ 5pm

Adjournment: A motion was made by Ms. Mello to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 pm, seconded by Dr. Green.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Kathy Henkle (Recording Secretary)
 November 19, 2012