



## CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

### HEALTH DEPARTMENT

JOSEPH A. CURTATONE

MAYOR

PAULETTE RENAULT-CARAGIANES

DIRECTOR

## MINUTES BOARD OF HEALTH

### Regular Meeting

November 21, 2013

5:00 pm

Conference Room @ Somerville Hospital  
236 Highland Avenue

**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:** None

**Guests:** Mr. Antonio Andrade, Owner Cross Street Market & Deli

**Meeting Called to Order:** by Dr. Green and seconded by Ms. Mello at 5:02pm.

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

"The October 17, 2013 Minutes were approved as circulated." **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Variance Request:** None

**Food Consultant:** Mr. Naparstek is continuing his work with the City to develop policies on safe food handling, food permitting, and evaluating low, moderate and high risk establishments. He is working on a video with the assistance of graduate students on safe food handling for not for profit groups.

**Rodent Task Force Updates:** The Rodent Task Force is now known as the "Rodent Action Team". 311 data indicates rodentsightings are down from last year. Highlights of control measures:

A dedicated effort is now underway to assure that dumpsters be register as required and be in good condition and be properly cleaned. A research and development firm that does rodent fertility management system is going to begin some work in Somerville. To attract rodents to the fertility altering bait, it is made to taste like what the rodents are going after in a particular region. For example: rodents attracted to rice fields are left bait is made to taste like in a rice. Once the rodents eat the bait, it slows down the female reproductive system and it significantly decreases the number and size of litters they have each year. The City is also developing a plan

that would assist 1, 2, &3 family owner occupied dwellings bait their properties if rodents are present. This will also include having a written agreement between the City and homeowner that links provision of cost free exterminator services to home-owners agreeing to rodent-proof their properties in accordance with inspection results. It is also likely that the City will be supplying bins with attached lids for residence to put their trash in sometime in 2014.

**Cross Street Market & Deli Hearing:** The owner, Mr. Andrade was asked to appear in front of the Board to discuss the critical violations issued regarding holding temperatures of food in his establishment. Mr. Andrade spoke at length about the challenge of holding food at the required temperature while maintaining some of the characteristics that are familiar to his clientele. The Board reinforced that safe hot and cold food temperature holding are requirements that decrease the likelihood of food borne illness. In a vote, the Board authorized ISD to conduct another inspection at the Cross Street Market and Deli before the end of 2013. It also voted that if critical violations related to holding temperatures are found during the next inspection, Mr. Andrade will be required to hire a certified food consultant to assist him in developing strategies to help in complying with food code regulations. Dr. Green made a motion to take a vote to have Cross Street Market have another inspection by year-end and if critical violations related to holding temperature are found, that the owner hire a food consultant and/or the establishment to be shut down. Ms. Machado seconded it. All in Favor Yes – 3 No – 0. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Restaurant Inspections – October 2013** – Kelly's Diner was re-inspected. They still had critical violations, but different ones. Ms. Lee felt that the establishment and the person in charge were listening and understanding that violations had to be corrected. Ms. Lee saw much improvement with Kelly's. ISD is in the processing of hiring a new staff person whose main duties will be food safety issues.

**Municipal Grounds Smoking Ordinance** – nothing to report / no updates

**Health Department Updates:** SomerStat has organized data on food establishments inspections to provide a more accurate portrayal of the type of and frequency of violations. (The Health Director will try to get this data to share with the board members.) Additional information included in that data is the dramatic increase in temporary food permits since 2009 (21 issued that year). So far this year, 154 (*note this is a corrected number from what was presented at the BOH meeting*) temporary food permits have been processed and it is anticipated that over 200 will be issued by year's end .

Cambridge Health Alliance is no longer requesting the Health Department to submit monthly reports. However, we will still provide the Board with a summary of Health Department activities. In the next couple of months we will revised this report and make it a one-page document. It was suggested that the Board provide any input on what they would like to see in those reports. The Director suggested that a good starting point for information about each program would include the staffing/vacancies, grant information, fiscal information, and one or two projects each division selects to highlight as well as a section for additional comments.

**Health Department Updates:** Dr. Green made a motion to accept the Health Department updates and Ms. Machado seconded it. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Next Meetings:** December 19, 2013 5:00pm

January 23, 2014 5:30pm PLEASE NOTE DATE AND TIME CHANGE

Meetings are held at Somerville Hospital – 236 Highland Avenue Conference Room – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Henkle (Recording Secretary)  
November 26, 2013