

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF HEALTH**

July 29, 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  
Paula Machado, Board Member  
Kathy Henkle (Recording Secretary)

**Absent:**

**Staff Members in Attendance:** None

**Guests:** Maureen Lee, Restaurant Inspector working for ISD/Health Division;  
Sally Loh, owner of New Asia Restaurant

**Meeting Called to Order:** by Dr Green and seconded by Ms. Mello at 5:14pm.

**Previous Minutes:** On a motion made by Ms. Mello and seconded by Ms. Machado:  
*“The June 24, 2010 Minutes were approved as circulated.”*

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**May Minutes Correction:** Under the Flood Plain Plan, The City of Somerville received a notice from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) . Who administers the Flood Insurance Program? The above line should be typed as follows: The City of Somerville received a notice from FEMA, who administers the Flood Insurance Program. A motion needs to be made at the next meeting to accept the correction.

**Health Department Updates:**

National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 2, 2010 from 5-8pm at Foss Park. EBT, SNAP (food stamps), debit, and credit cards will now be accepted at the Somerville Farmer’s Market in Davis and Union Squares.

The Health Department is implementing electronic immunization registry to allow for better access to data. The initial input of vaccine records dating forward from 1 January 2010 should be completed by the end of summer 2010.

Rodent sightings have increased. Modern Pest has been a great partner with the city in trying to educate the residents on how to protect their properties from rodents.

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

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**New Asia Restaurant Hearing:** Per the recommendation of Ms. Lee, Sally Loh appeared in front of the board for a hearing related to a preoperational inspection needed to reopen her establishment located on Somerville Avenue.

Ms. Lee summarized the history of the address as well as the results of the inspection. While the establishment was closed, Ms. Loh was repeatedly cited for trash violations. Ms. Loh told the board the violations were mailed to the wrong address and she never got

them. Additionally, Ms. Loh wanted to know why there were no routine inspections done at New Asia during the years 2006 and 2007. Ms. Lee noted that based on the records she was able to locate on this property, she was unable to answer the question at this time.

To complete the pre operational restaurant inspection process, On June 15, 2010, Ms. Loh came to Ms. Lee's office to pick up a letter containing details regarding the preoperational inspection process.. Ms. Lee stated that it was her understanding that Donna Picket of the ISD unit and Ms. Lee made arrangements with Ms. Loh to have Ms. Lee come to New Asia on Thursday, June 17, 2010 for a pre-operational inspection. When Ms. Lee came to the establishment for the inspection, Ms. Loh said she wasn't expecting Ms. Lee because she thought the city was closed due to the Bunker Hill holiday. Both Ms. Lee and Ms. Loh's agreed that based on conditions at the establishment on 17June, it was not ready for the inspection. According to Ms. Lee, the following was found at the inspection: (1) 2 non functional food thermometers, one was not calibrated and the other one not working (2) visible rodent droppings (3) openings in floor that still needed to be sealed where the sinks were installed (4) 2 in-line refrigeration units with an ambient tempatature of 49 and the other had a range of 42-45F range (5) general foul conditions including soiled, floor, walls, equipment, slicer, (6) odor in the kitchen consistent with mold. Ms. Lee went for a 2<sup>nd</sup> pre-operational inspections and the establishment passed inspection and was in that regard could be considered in compliance for re-opening. Based on the history of this address and actions of the owner/operator, Ms. Lee gave 2 recommendations to the board to consider before Ms. Loh is issued a permit to reopen New Asia. The first option would be to increase inspections and do them on a quarterly basis. The 2<sup>nd</sup> option would be to do a monthly inspections for the 3 months and based on the outcome of those inspections, change the frequency either reduce, increase, or continue on the monthly basis frequency. Ms. Lee indicated that the advantage of doing it on a monthly basis that you are can catch potential or actual violation conditions much faster. The additional inspections would be paid by the owner, Ms. Loh outside of the two annual inspections covered in the cost of her permit. The inspections would follow the federal guidelines criteria which is you cannot have more than 3 critical violations, critical are pre-determine by the food codes. There are no standards for non-critical. Non-critical factor in when you begin to accumulate a history of repeat non-critical violations that also can be considered an imminent health risk.

A motion was made by Dr Green on the joint recommendation of Ms. Lee and the Health Director, Paulette Renault-Caragianges that Ms. Loch's establishment New Asia will have 3 monthly inspections after opening. The inspections will be conducted in September, October and November of 2010 two which will be covered by the permit fee and one paid by the owner. Additional inspections will be conducted in February and May of 2011 to ensure New Asia is in compliance. Any additional inspections after that will be paid the Ms. Loh, owner of New Asia. This motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Mello. A vote was taken, all in favor

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Old Business:** Nothing to Report.

**New Business:** Capones and McKinnon's both were issued cease and desist for reduced oxygen packaging of foods. Ms. Lee explained that while this type of packaging is appropriate for some types of food to reduce the risk of food borne illness, it is not the case for the types of food that these establishments currently sell. She is working with them to correct the problems.

There has been an increased of mosquitoes in our region that have been tested positive for Encephalitis though no illness has been reported in communities north of Boston.

The CDC has indicated that this year's seasonal flu vaccine should be in single dose and include protection against H1N1. The health department will probably do flu clinics in the schools again with more intense outreach though connect city calls and surveys, etc.

The entire country continues to suffer from the bed bug epidemics.

**Next Meeting:** September 16, 2010 at 5pm - 50 Evergreen Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> floor Conference Room

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Dr. Green and seconded by Ms. Machado to adjourn the meeting at 6:46pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Henkle (Recording Secretary)  
August 3, 2010