



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
Health Department



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

JOSEPH A. CURTATONE  
MAYOR

PAULETTE RENAULT-CARAGIANES  
DIRECTOR

MINUTES  
**BOARD OF HEALTH**

May 19, 2011  
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:** Jason Dodd, Cory Mashburn

**Guests:** James Cassidy, Katie Leavitt, Wilbert Arbouy  
D.J. Wilson, Mass Municipal Association  
Ellen Schneider, Operations Manager of ISD Department; Jason Grossfield City of Somerville Law Department

**Meeting Called to Order:** by Dr Green and seconded by Ms. Mello at 5:09pm

**Previous Minutes:** On a motion made by Ms. Mello and seconded by Ms. Machado:  
*“The March 17, 2011 Minutes were approved as circulated.”* **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Public Hearing – Tobacco Regulations:** A public hearing was conducted to amend the City of Somerville’s Tobacco Regulations. Jason Dodd gave an overview of the changes, most notably that pharmacies or stores containing a pharmacy department would not be allowed to sell tobacco products. In the regulations, section K, paragraphs A, B, and C; the tobacco fines have been changed. In addition, the new tobacco regulations will address the permit for tobacco and nicotine delivery product sales which will fall under the tobacco permit. D.J. Wilson, the Tobacco Control Manager of the Mass Municipal Association spoke in favor of the amendments. James Cassidy, the Manager of Rite Aid Pharmacy on Broadway, was not in favor of the amendments. Dr. Green also spoke in favor of the amended regulations. Dr. Green made a motion to approve the amendments to the tobacco regulations. Ms. Mello seconded it. A vote was taken. All board members were in favor. the regulations will go into effect July 1, 2011.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Wine Sampling @ Farmers' Markets:** Legislation was passed in August of 2010 to allow licensed Massachusetts based farm-wineries to sell wine at farmers' markets. Wine is technically a food and because there is already a local liquor license it is completely up to the local boards or health whether they want to issue a temporary food license. The state has recommended that the local boards of health not to issue an additional food permit for these types of tastings. Discussion on the matter also focused on the serving of wine from a multi serving bottle into a cup providing a chance of contamination. A discussion on reminding these wineries on hand hygiene and other infection control prevention methods was discussed. Dr. Green made a motion that the Somerville Board of Health adopts the state-wide regulations to allow licensed farm-wineries to sell wine at farmers' markets without having to get a temporary food permit as well. Ms. Mello seconded it. A vote was taken and all board members were in favor.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Temporary Food Establishment Permits:** Ms. Schneider spoke briefly about the topic of when a temporary food permit should be issued. The city would like to work with the Board of Health to establish a reasonable policy that is enforceable. A short discussion followed. The board will revisit this topic at their June meeting.

**Food Establishments Violations for April 2011:** The reports were reviewed by the board members. A short discussion followed regarding the level of information the Board would find useful on this matter. Suggested ideas included development of a spread sheet summarizing monthly inspections as well as having the restaurant inspector(s) and/or ISD staff provides information on a monthly basis on food establishments that have significant violation issues.

**Health Department Updates:** Raffi Freedman-Gurspan, the GLBT Liaison has resigned, effective 31 May 2011.

The issue of bedbugs was also discussed as it related to a report of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggests that the pests could play a role in disease transmission. Researchers have found the drug-resistant bacteria known as MRSA. The Board will consider asking for a presentation once there is more information available on the likelihood of disease transmission to examine "best practices" of extermination in consideration of adopting these measures as a regulation

**Director's Report:** On a motion made by Ms. Mello and seconded by Ms Machado, *"The Director's April 2011 Reports were approved as circulated."*

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Old Business:** Nothing to report

**New Business:** Paulette reported that the City is working on a New Rodent Control Enforcement Ordinance that will bring the Health Department into a role of assisting in enforcement.

**Next Meeting:** June 16, 2011

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Ms. Machado to adjourn the meeting at 6:19pm, seconded by Ms. Mello.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Henkle (Recording Secretary)  
May 23, 2011

