

MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH

June 18, 2009

5:00pm

City Hall Annex Conference Room

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

Staff Members in Attendance: Sonja Darai (Commissions Director)
Jaime Corliss (Shape-Up-Somerville Director)

Guests: Ms. Claudia Millina, Regis College Student

A motion was made by Dr. Green and seconded by Ms. Mello to call the meeting to order at 5:04pm.

Previous Minutes: On a motion made by Ms. Mello and seconded by Ms. Marchado; *“The May 21, 2009 Minutes were approved as circulated.”*
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Previous Director’s Report: On a motion made by Ms.Mello and seconded by Paula Machado; *“The May’s Department Updates were approved as circulated.”*
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Health Director asks the chair if the board would suspend the rules, so that two health staff could show their presentations.

Ms. Sonja Darai, the city’s Commissions Director, presented a proposal to the board members regarding a formation of a snow removal committee. The purpose of this committee would be to educate the public on the safety of removing snow from their sidewalks to prevent injuries. Ms. Mello suggested that Ms. Daria get in contact with the Highway Department as they already oversee and enforce the removal of snow from sidewalks. The DPW also have inspectors that go out and ticket any one in violation. Dr. Green also suggested that the city should look into a community program where residents can pay someone to have their sidewalks shoveled if they are unable to. After hearing and reviewing the snow removal committee proposal, the board members approved Ms. Darai to go forward.

Ms. Jaime Corliss, the Shape-Up-Somerville Director handed out pamphlets on trans fats. Ms. Corliss basically wants to let board members know that this topic has a lot of interest and momentum going forward among consumers, restaurant owners. A few cities have already got bans on trans fat, New York City, Brookline, and Cambridge. The trans fat topic is in legislative at the state level. According to Ms. Corliss it has been

refiled. At the last session it pass the house and senate. Hopefully it will be finalized at it session next July 2010.

Private Well Regulations: The board unanimously agreed that the fee for well permits and registration of wells is \$100 each. Effective September 1, 2009.

H1N1 Virus (Swine Flu) Update: According to DPH, primary care physicians have to get prior approval from them to test for the swine flu. Regarding schools, children confirmed with fever, sniffle, cold-like symptoms need to stay out of school for seven days. The schools have been tracking absences by grade. The public health nurses have been doing investigations unless instructed by DPH not to.

Health Department Updates: We will conduct family flu clinics this fall, along with another vote and vax clinic. We have a promising school nurse candidate who should start in August. The Shape-Up-Somerville program is preparing for a site visit from their fonder, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The Mayor will be hosting a welcome reception for Rich Bell, the Project Officer on June 30, 2009. SCAP is busy organizing for their National Night Out to be held August 4, 2009. Patty Contente, Clinical Youth Specialist, held their Save Our Somerville a Virgil honoring the young lives lost due to suicide, trauma, etc. Ms. Renault-Caragianes attended the statewide board of health modality meeting. The DPH needed 8m to fully fund the tobacco program. The house voted on 7m, the senate 5m, and the governor said 4m. The DPH will probably have to defund some of their programs.

The next meeting will be held in the City Hall Annex Conference Room,
50 Evergreen Avenue at 5:00pm. on September 17, 2009

A motion was made by Dr. Green and seconded by Ms. Mello to adjourn the meeting at 6:16pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Henkle (Recording Secretary)
June 23, 2009