

**NEEDHAM BOARD OF HEALTH
DECEMBER 8, 2017
MEETING MINUTES**

PRESENT: Jane Fogg, M.D., Chair, Stephen Epstein, M.D., Vice-Chair, and Edward V. Cosgrove, PhD

STAFF: Timothy McDonald, Director, Tara Gurge, Assistant Director, Catherine Delano, Maryanne Dinell, Carol Read, Dawn Stiller, Tiffany Zike

GUEST: Carolyn Dann, MassDEP Municipal Assistance Coordinator

CONVENE: 7:01 p.m. - Public Service Administration Building (PSAB), 500 Dedham Avenue, Needham MA 02492

DISCUSSION:

Called To Order - 7:01 a.m. - Jane Fogg, Chairman

APPROVE MINUTES:

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the BOH meeting of November 9, 2017, were approved as submitted.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

STAFF REPORTS

- **Tara Gurge, Assistant Director, and Diana Acosta, Environmental Health Agent**

Ms. Gurge presented an update on Permit Renewals and Nuisance Complaints. Ms. Gurge stated that she is monitoring pest issues at the Acapulco's Mexican Restaurant. A brief discussion followed on charging for repeat inspections.

Ms. Gurge reported that she had a follow up housing inspection for #115 Wilshire Park with Building Commissioner, David Roche. Ms. Gurge recapped the issues and stated that the area has been cleaned up the fence has been removed. She added that there is still a lot of work that needs to be completed. She stated that this complaint is ongoing and she will continue to update the Board.

Ms. Gurge updated the Board on nuisance complaint for #54 Pleasant Street. She stated that the homeowner has been contacted regarding this complaint: neighbor leaving plates of food out for animals to eat.

Ms. Gurge reported that compliance checks for tobacco were conducted on December 1st. There were no violations.

Ms. Gurge reported on septic permits for construction and hauler renewals as well as on soil test and plan reviews.

- **Traveling Meals Coordinator Report - Maryanne Dinell**

Ms. Dinell reported that 16 persons received delivered meals on Thanksgiving from the Needham Community Council and the Needham Rotary. Ms. Dinell stated that there are up to 43 clients on the Traveling Meals Program. She stated that the program has increased slightly as it usually does in the winter months.

Ms. Dinell reported that she attended a fundraiser at the VFW for Veterans. She stated she had a nice conversation at this event about veterans coming onto the program.

Ms. Dinell stated that Temple Beth Shalom will do the Christmas meals.

- **Senior Substance Use Prevention Coordinator - Catherine Delano**

Ms. Delano reported that she has assisted with SBIRT screening at Needham High School. She stated that she has screened 30 students so far. She also stated that in January and February she will be assisting with screenings at the middle school.

Ms. Delano reported that she is working with the Juvenile Court's Officer and the Pollard Resource Officer to create a Youth Diversion Program. She stated that she attended the Dedham Juvenile Court to observe the process, which will help inform how the process will take shape in Needham.

Ms. Delano stated that she will present a report to the Needham Board of Selectmen in January on the Youth Diversion Program and the result from the 2017 Needham Parent Survey.

- **Substance Use Senior Program Coordinator - Carol Read**

Ms. Read reported that two (2) TIPS: Training and Intervention Procedures for Servers of alcohol, took place on November 6th for alcohol licensees for Needham, Dedham, Norwood, and Westwood (1 training for Section 15 licensees and 1 training for Section 12 licensees). Ms. Read stated 44 people attended these trainings. She noted that there was only 1 attendee from Needham. Mr. McDonald stated that outreach was done prior to the training with a signed

letter from Tim McDonald, Town Manager, Kate Fitzpatrick, and Needham Chief of Police, John Schlittler and email reminders, yet attendance was modest. Ms. Read stated that it is a goal of the four town SAPC Prevention Collaborative to make the attendance to the training mandatory through each town's alcohol regulations. A discussion followed on the in person training requirement, Board of Selectmen involvement, and alcohol compliance checks in the four town collaborative to impact underage access to alcohol and promote road safety.

Ms. Read reported that she is working with DJ Wilson, Tobacco Control Director and Public Health Liaison for the Massachusetts Municipal Association, a team of SAPC Program Managers, and MassTAPP Technical Assistance specialists on a standard alcohol regulation for towns to consider for policy changes around alcohol access. Ms. Read stated that this prevention team is putting together a tool kit that would help the towns make policy changes to impact underage access to alcohol and promote road safety.

Ms. Read reported that the Community Crisis Intervention Team (CCIT) community partners held their quarterly meeting on November 8th. Ms. Read stated that the conversation centered on being responsive to residents, program goals, overview of community commitment and the IACP One Mind Campaign. Ms. Read commended the collaborative relationship between the Health and Human Services Division and the Needham Police Department. She explained that the goal is for residents to understand that the police are trying not to be punitive but supportive to provide resources related to substance use and mental health conditions.

- **Nurses Report - Donna Carmichael and Tiffany Zike**

Ms. Zike presented a report on communicable diseases and animal bites. Ms. Zike provided detailed information on Noro Virus that occurred in November.

Ms. Zike provided an update on dog bites. Ms. Zike stated that the earlier report was incorrect. She stated that a meeting was held with Animal Control and the number of dog bits are twenty for the year. Ms. Zike stated that the disparity in data might be due to the transition that took place in relocating offices. She also stated that Animal Control suggested that there are a lot more dogs without leashes that get into fights with other dogs and owner are bitten when attempting to break up the dog fights. She stated that it would be helpful to do an education campaign after the holidays to remind the community to leash their dogs.

Ms. Zike reported that the Flu Clinics are now by appointment only. She added that there are 150 left of 650 ordered. A general conversation ensued on the predictions of a bad flu season.

Ms. Zike reported that Kindred Transitional Care & Rehabilitation-Avery in Needham is closing. She stated that Public Health Nurses have called to offer assistance to residents with this transition. Mr. McDonald summarized his conversations with Kindred officials on this matter as well as providing assistance with staffing and job placement. A general discussion followed.

TRASH HAULER REGULATION REVIEW

Mr. McDonald open this item for discussion. He welcomed Carolyn Dann, MassDEP Municipal Assistance Coordinator. He stated that Ms. Dann and Ms. Gurge will present this item. Ms. Gurge stated that Ms. Dann has been working with herself and Superintendent of the Recycling and Transfer Station Greg Smith on updating the Trash Hauler Regulations in Needham.

Ms. Dann stated that as MassDEP Municipal Assistance Coordinator she helps municipalities to find ways to reduce waste. She stated that this includes working with Public Health Departments on private hauler regulations. Ms. Dann stated that trash haulers offer their customers the option not to recycle. She added that although private haulers receive permits to use recycling and transfer stations they are not in compliance with the waste bans. Ms. Dann provided historic background on the development of a template for Trash Hauler Regulations. Ms. Dann stated that Needham has a question on whether or not it wants the private trash haulers to come to the transfer station.

Ms. Gurge stated that surveys are being done quarterly to gather information on how much trash is collected by each hauler. She added that Mr. Smith will analyze the data to determine at what capacity Needham could handle. Discussion followed on cost, curb side versus hauling. Ms. Gurge stated that there will be a big educational component once the regulations are fully drafted.

Ms. Dann stated that the Trash Hauler Regulations will help support the transfer station to a level playing field, by providing the recycling that the state requires, and requiring the haulers to offer trash and recycle together. She added that the haulers will not be able to offer trash only. A discussion followed on suggestions around a cost structure and policy.

UPDATE ABOUT COMPOSTING OPERATIONS AT NEEDHAM RTS

Mr. McDonald led the discussion on this item. He stated that in May, 2017, he received information from the RTS Superintendent, Greg Smith on a revised methods of composting at the RTS. Mr. McDonald referred to the Board approved piloting program for composting at the RTS with oversight monitoring by the Public Health Division. Mr. McDonald explained that Mr. Smith is asking for a change in technology used for composting and the types of procedures employed, rather than a modification to the type or volume of organic materials accepted. Mr. McDonald added that Mr. Smith would give a presentation for the Board's consideration at the next Board meeting. Mr. McDonald referred to the M.G.L., Chapter 111, Section 150A and Section 150A½ that govern Board of Health authority for the disposal of solid waste. A discussion followed on updating regulations, competitiveness and capacity.

REVIEW OF TOBACCO COMPLIANCE RESULTS

Ms. Gurge stated that there are two open Tobacco Permits. She noted that Panella's Market is not renewing their Tobacco Permit. Ms. Gurge stated that the Tedeschi Food Shop at #168 Garden Street has closed and is permanently shut down. Ms. Gurge also stated that Article 1, Regulation Affecting Smoking and the Sale and Distribution of Tobacco Products in Needham would need to be revised in order to reduce the number of tobacco permits in Needham. Ms. Gurge added that a Public Hearing will need to be held on the revised regulation. A discussion followed on whether or not to reduce the number of tobacco permits by 1 or two (from 12 to 10).

Mr. McDonald spoke about a recent Request for Proposal (RFP) to fund support for municipal tobacco control. He stated that preference is given to communities with a high burden. He added that he likes the idea of reducing tobacco outlet density and this RFP could facilitate this effort. The conversation veered to a discussion on vaping.

UPDATE ON SENIOR HOUSING: AFFORDABILITY & ACCESSIBILITY

Mr. McDonald stated that the League of Women Voters of Needham will host a forum on Friday, February 9th titled Making Needham an Age-Friendly Town.

Mr. McDonald stated that he made a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen and they have passed it onto the Planning Board. He stated that he doesn't know if the Planning Board will advance it at the spring Annual Town Meeting or the fall Special Town Meeting. Mr. McDonald stated that one of the Board of Selectmen's goals is to determine whether or not Needham should become an age friendly community.

The conversation veered to an update on the Rosemary Recreational Complex. Mr. McDonald stated that he and Dr. Cosgrove attended a meeting about the Rosemary Recreational Complex. He stated that there are restrictions that are placed on the town's ability to develop land around Rosemary based on funding that the town received in the 1960s and 1970s from the National Parks Services Land and Water Conservation Trust. Mr. McDonald stated that the Public Health space and parking associated with it is in violation with the agreement. Mr. McDonald stated that he and his staff are drafting information on the ways Public Health supports recreation, and healthy living. Mr. McDonald stated that he will keep the Board updated on this matter.

EVERSOURCE UTILITY REDUNCY REPORT

Mr. McDonald stated that the Eversource project is still an issue. Mr. McDonald stated there was a Public Hearing for weeks ago in which residents on South Street attended. He stated that the primary alternative route is South Street.

Mr. McDonald described monitoring protocols for Electric and Magnetic Field (EMF) that are in place to assist residents with concerns. He stated that this protocol is very similar to the noise monitoring protocols.

Mr. McDonald stated that the challenge for the town is to convey that "the safe level" is not officially set. Mr. McDonald summarized the information from the post monitoring results. He stated that the town's engineer found challenges in obtaining levels on continuous exposure because of existing utilities, setbacks etc. Mr. McDonald stated that Eversource need a permit of access or a site placement from the Board of Selectmen who can require a specific testing requirements. A lengthy discussion followed exposure potential and continued monitoring of EMF levels by Public Health staff.

Adjournment -

Upon motion duly made and seconded, that the December 8, 2017, BOH meeting adjourns at 8:55 a.m.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Next meeting is scheduled for, Friday, January 12, 2017

Respectfully submitted: Cheryl Gosmon, Recording Secretary