

Needham Board of Health Minutes

July 19, 2019

Board of Health: Edward Cosgrove, PhD, Chair (absent)
Stephen Epstein, MD, MPP, Member
Kathleen Ward Brown, ScD, Vice Chair
Christina S. Mathews, MPH, Member
Robert A. Partridge, MD, MPH, Member

Staff Present: Timothy Muir McDonald, Director; Tara Gurge, Assistant Director; Maryanne Dinell; Carol Read; Diana Acosta; Tiffany Zike; Donna Carmichael; Dawn Stiller; Catherine Delano

Guests Present: Tal Achituv, Barbara Thornton, Hiren Patel, Officer Adrienne Anderson

Convene: Public Services Administration Building, Charles River Room
500 Dedham Avenue, Needham, MA 02492

Dr. Kathleen Ward Brown called the Board of Health meeting to order at 7:00 a.m.

Dr. Ward Brown asked for review and edits of the previous meeting minutes. Dr. Stephen Epstein made a motion to approve the minutes with no edits. Mr. Timothy McDonald noted that the spelling of one name needed to be changed. Dr. Epstein made a motion to approve the minutes with that one adjustment. The vote to approve the meeting minutes with the edits incorporated was unanimous.

STAFF REPORTS

Public Health Director, Mr. Timothy McDonald

Mr. Timothy McDonald reported an update on the Public Health Division accreditation process. He said that the Division does not have dedicated funding for accreditation but does have part-time staff working on the process. There has been a significant amount of work on policies and procedures as well as the completion of the orientation packet for Board of Health members and new staff members. The cost to pursue accreditation is a substantial investment of staff time and resources to prepare all materials and to complete the application process, as well as an initial application fee of \$14,000 and an annual fee of \$5,600.

Reporting on behalf of Ms. Rachael Cain, Mr. McDonald said that the Safety at Home program has been fairly successful. However, there is some resistance from some residents due to concerns that they will be taken out of their homes if staff members observe an unsafe situation. This is an issue that Ms. Cain and other staff are addressing.

Mr. McDonald also reported that the Needham Housing Authority survey results are being analyzed and Ms. Cain will complete the needs assessment by the end of the summer.

Dr. Kathleen Ward Brown asked about the smoking cessation program and the low attendance. Mr. McDonald said that there has been discussion about how to increase participation. He also said that a part-time nurse has been added to support smoking cessation programs in the future.

Dr. Stephen Epstein noted that it is important to discuss the Division's grant-funded program on extreme weather preparedness for seniors, especially given the extreme heat anticipated for this weekend. Mr. McDonald reported that the Needham Public Library and the Rosemary Recreation Center will be open.

Dr. Robert Partridge asked what mechanisms we have to check on people at risk and to notify people about the cooling centers. Mr. McDonald stated that we do not have a way to check on people at risk but that the Town does have reverse 911. However, despite the many efforts to promote the service, the sign-up for reverse 911 has been quite low. Ms. Donna Carmichael said that the social workers at the Center at the Heights check in with seniors who come to the center and help prepare them for the weekend. The nurses also reach out to the seniors' family members to make sure they are aware of the upcoming forecast. Ms. Maryanne Dinell said that when volunteers deliver meals they check to make sure that all participants have plenty of water.

Traveling Meals Coordinator Report, Ms. Maryanne Dinell

Having four people delivering meals this summer is working out well. The summer staff includes one college student, two women from last year, and a gentleman with previous experience delivering meals in other communities.

Substance Use Coordinator Report, Ms. Catherine Delano

Ms. Catherine Delano reported that the Parent Survey 2019 is now closed and that Mr. Scott Formica is analyzing the data. As in years past, Mr. Formica will present the results at the fall Substance Prevention Alliance of Needham (SPAN) coalition meeting. Ms. Delano also reported that Ms. Sara Shine, the Director of Youth and Family Services, agreed to be the leader of the Vaping Task Force. Ms. Delano is also working with other colleagues in Health and Human Services on the topics of accessory dwelling units and commercial marijuana regulations. Ms. Delano also reported that the students who participate in Students Advocating Live without Substance Abuse (SALSA) worked with Mr. Scott Formica to develop, disseminate, and analyze a vaping survey for high school students. The results of these are in the Board of Health packet.

Regional Substance Use Prevention Collaborative (SAPC), Ms. Carol Read

Ms. Carol Read reported that the focus last month was on TIPS (Training for Intervention Procedures), a program that trains alcohol servers on safe practices and preventing over-serving. The TIPS program can now be sustained in the four towns (Needham, Dedham, Westwood, and Norwood) after preparing nine volunteers to become certified TIPS trainers.

Ms. Read also reported that there were two TIPS trainings for licensees. The following Needham establishments participated: Homewood Suites, Fuji, Blue on Highland, Needham Center Fine Wines, and Hungry Coyote (a new licensee).

Mr. McDonald reported that the Select Board met with the first four establishments that had violations during the recent alcohol compliance check. The Select Board will also meet with three repeat

offenders. Ms. Read stated that one goal of SAPC is to enhance alcohol regulations to include defined penalties and consistent enforcement in each town.

Public Health Nursing Report, Ms. Tiffany Zike

Communicable diseases were reviewed by Ms. Donna Carmichael and Ms. Tiffany Zike. Ms. Carmichael stated that camps are moving along and there is one more that needs to open.

Environmental Health Report, Ms. Tara Gurge and Ms. Diana Acosta

Ms. Diana Acosta reported that a resident believed that they contracted MRSA from the YMCA pool. Ms. Acosta reviewed the CDC website fact sheet titled “Facts About MRSA and Swimming Pools” which states that it is highly unlikely to contract MRSA from a pool. When Ms. Acosta followed up with the YMCA and reviewed their logs, she noted that there were no pool closings and that chemicals were in range during the time period that the resident indicated she was using the facilities.

Ms. Acosta spoke about a recent report of bed bugs at the Sheraton. When Ms. Acosta contacted the Sheraton she was informed that the room in question, along with the adjacent rooms, had already been treated.

Ms. Acosta also reported that she and Ms. Tara Gurge have weekly meetings with three pest control companies in order to address a pest issue related to the dumpsters from Hearth and Farmhouse, which abuts a daycare. Different tactics and multiple treatments have been performed and as a result the rodent population has decreased.

Ms. Michelle Iovino and Ms. Stephanie McCulloch, graduate student interns, reported on the FDA standards project and the “Nourishing Needham” project respectively.

Preliminary Discussion of 57 Walker Lane Septic System Enforceable Agreement

Mr. Tal Achituv, a Needham resident, and his representative, Ms. Barbara Thornton, attended the meeting to discuss the septic system at 57 Walker Lane. Mr. Achituv presented the benefits of having sewer connections along with his neighbors rather than having an individual septic system for his house. Mr. Achituv has met with other departments in Needham, including the Town Engineer. Mr. Achituv was told that the Board of Health is required to vote and send a letter requesting that the Town assist Walker Lane residents with the cost and construction of a sewer system.

Mr. McDonald pointed out the map of Walker Lane on page 73 of the Board of Health packet. This map shows a pond and a ledge, which could potentially present a challenge to siting a septic system. Mr. McDonald also noted that Walker Pond has had significant nitrogen contamination and there is a need to determine how it would be cleaned.

Dr. Ward Brown asked to continue this discussion and extend the deadline for Mr. Achituv. The other Board members agreed to continue the discussion in the next few months. Dr. Ward Brown made a motion that Mr. McDonald continue to work with other Town Departments on this issue. Dr. Epstein seconded this motion. The Board voted unanimously and the motion passed.

Discussion of Verizon 5g Small Cell Sites and Community Impact

Dr. Epstein noted that the Select Board packet mentioned there was a radio frequency report and a radio frequency emissions report, however neither was included in the packet. The Board noted that they also need specifications for the equipment that is to be installed.

Mr. McDonald will ask for equipment specifications, the radio frequency report, and the radio frequency emissions report so that the Board may update their letter.

Underage Sale of Tobacco Products by 7-Eleven at 845 Highland Ave

Dr. Ward Brown made a motion to open the hearing on the underage sale of tobacco products. Dr. Epstein seconded this motion. The hearing was on an underage sale of tobacco at the 7-Eleven at 856 Highland Avenue during a routine tobacco compliance check. Officer Adrienne Anderson and Ms. Diana Acosta were both present at the compliance check as well as two volunteers. Ms. Acosta reviewed the process of the compliance check that occurred on July 9th, 2019 at 5:00 PM.

Mr. Hiren Patel, the owner of the 7-Eleven stated his case and spoke about the steps that he has taken to have safeguards in place to ensure that anyone working in his store does not sell to minors.

Dr. Epstein made a motion to impose a \$300 fine and a one-week suspension. Dr. Partridge seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to impose the \$300 fine and a one-week suspension.

Discussion of Accessory Dwelling Units and the Fall 2019 Town Meeting

Mr. McDonald asked the Board members if they approved the general concept of the draft letter, which is included in the Board packet. Once approved, he will approach the Needham papers for publishing. All Board members agreed to send comments to Mr. McDonald by email.

Ongoing Pest and Trash Management Challenges

The Board tabled this discussion until the next meeting due to time constraints.

Needham Survey about Electronic Vaping Products

The Board tabled this discussion until the next meeting due to time restraints.

Dr. Ward Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Epstein seconded the motion. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

The next meeting is Friday September 13th, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Minutes Submitted by Catherine Delano, Senior Program Coordinator Public Health.