

City of Chelsea

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2015
5:00 PM – Public Library

Attendance:

BOH: Christopher Miller (Chair), Catherine Maas, Madeleine Scammell, Dean Xerras. Luis Prado (Agent/HHS), Mary MacKenzie (City of Chelsea Public Health Nurse), Strephon Treadway (City Solicitor's office).

Public Comment: none

Motion by Chris to approve the City Manager's request to approve the agreement to enter into a collaborative agreement with city managers of Revere and Winthrop. Second by Cate. Unanimous vote.

Public Health Nurse Report: Will be added to minutes of future meetings.

January meeting: Agenda items should include Artificial Trans Fat Regulation. Invite Mike McAteer and the inspector who is doing the inspections. Dean will invite.

855 Broadway: We haven't heard anything in terms of an update since our last meeting. Luis has heard from several elders in the building with serious health needs. He has been connecting them with Mystic Valley Elder Services which has a contract with the city.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

6:00 PM Public Hearing: Receive public comments on proposed amendments to the tobacco regs for City of Chelsea.

Meet changing environment of tobacco related sales and make sure our regulations are grounded in the latest science. Major changes include age limits on sales, restriction of permits given by the city, and the dispensing of nicotine containing products (e.g., gels and liquids) as tobacco.

Bonnie Carrol, Director of the Six City Tobacco Initiative that also serves Chelsea just finished the compliance checks for Chelsea. Over 55 stores. 18 stores sold to an underage buyer. That is a high rate. Passing regs could have a big impact.

Cheryl Sbarra, Senior staff attorney with MAHB: Supreme Judicial Court in MA has expressed that they right to deal in business must deal with the paramount right to protect public health. Some opponents of strategies we are proposing are saying that we are taking legal products off of shelves. Yes, they are they legal products but they kill. Surgeon general has made this clear. The part of our regs that restrict flavored tobacco containing products to strictly tobacco stores is very reasonable. "You are adopting the regulation used by Providence, RI." RI was sued by tobacco industry but lost in federal district court. Decision was appealed, and then upheld in higher court.

Somerville just passed this identical regulation. Boston held a hearing on the identical reg last week. Boston Globe endorsed this policy including the legal age change to 21 years. The brain is not fully developed until the age of 25, but IOM did a study of this issue and determined that 21 would be most effective in terms of reducing exposures for high school students.

Mira O., MGH tobacco cessation coach. 99% of her clients say they started smoking before age 21, many between age 11-13. Raising the age to 21 is good. Big difference in the impact of developing an addiction as a child compared with addiction as an adult. Results in other issues including anxiety.

Ken Farbstein, Tobacco Free Ma (a coalition of 100+ organizations). Strongly support the regs you are considering, but especially the 21 plus. He is from Needham; the first city in MA to enact this reg. For the record. The IOM concluded, "raising the sale age... is likely to make purchase more difficult for under age youth... greatest gains will be for adolescents age 17..." will lead to significant reductions in smoking prevalence. Brain science adolescent brains are uniquely vulnerable to the effects of nicotine. American academy of pediatrics also made a strong recommendation recently AMA, AHA, ALA, etc. also support this regulation.

Locina Onco, metro Boston tobacco free partnership, 16 towns including Chelsea. Described a story of a student walking down the street thinking she was smelling fresh baked cinnamon rolls when she realized she was actually smelling a flavored vaporizer. Students are more likely to be attracted to flavored products. 46% of our city's tobacco retailers are within 1000 feet of our schools.

Kathleen Bray, Chelsea reach program at Chelsea high. 11 youth came to give their perspective. We are part of a coalition chapter 84 who work on tobacco related issues.

Jose Rosa: an after school program for grades 7-12.

Benjamin: BNY. Has younger siblings and worries that they will try tobacco.

Dee, BNY Mellon youth leader. On the way by stores children see tobacco next to candy. It looks like candy and they want to try it.

??, been through the age when she thought a hooka stick was a candy cane. I know it isn't. My little sister's don't know.

Joanna: growing up in Chelsea I've seen a lot of damage from tobacco. Stop the flavored tobacco.

Miguel, brought a letter signed by the chief of police saying he supports the ban on flavored tobacco in Chelsea.

Kevin: "I stopped smoking recently but last year my health teacher showed me a healthy lung compared with a smokers lung. Healthy was pink, smokers was black. I don't want to change the law to 21 because I think it should be your choice as someone is an adult at age 18."

Norma: the average person starts smoking at age 11. 11 and 18 are not far apart. Think it should be 21

Ashley: supports regs so people will not be addicted.

?? People should not smoke. Prices should be higher. I see kids smoking who are younger than 10 years old. It should just be banned in general; not age 21. Everyone.

Celestine: it is not good to let kids smoke. Age 21 is old enough to make decisions but younger than that is too young. We need to provide information to them so they know what they are doing later on. We have seen family members get sick from smoking and die.

Bill Marrow, at the 84 workshop we were shown how tobacco was produced and sold. It looks like kids candy. If tobacco is to be sold that looks like candy, it should not be sold in a place that kids will be attracted to it.

Stephen: athlete. People should not smoke. Age should be 21

James: athlete. Should you make your own decisions as to whether you smoke or not but as an athlete you should take care of your body.

Norma: at age 18, why am I allowed to drink and I can smoke? Both should be raised to 21.

Motion by Madeleine to adopt the regulation in its current form. Seconded by Cate.

Approved by all. Unanimous.

Effective March 15th 2016.