

City of Chelsea

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2016
5:00 PM – Public Library

Attendance:

BOH: Christopher Miller (Chair), Emmanuel Tellez, Catherine Maas, Madeleine Scammell, Luis Prado (Agent/HHS).

Absent: Dean Xerras.

Public Comment: none.

Minutes: Discussion of being behind on the minutes. City last received October 2016. Madeleine will send board the minutes for November, December, February and May. Luis will send board minutes for January and April. There was no meeting in March.

Madeleine will also inform Cheryl that Chris Naitza is no longer on the Board, and Emmanuel Tellez is. EmmanuelJonathanTellez@gmail.com

Housing and Sanitary Code: David Guzman ISD was unable to participate in this meeting but was going to update the BOH on housing inspections. He will try to come next month.

Luis and Madeleine shared information regarding a database being developed by Kennedy School of Government Students to incorporate data from police, ISD, fire, tax assessor, legal dept. so these presently disparate data sources and tracking tools used by various depts. of the city can “talk to each other” and be shared. They went to presentation last week for the City Manager. The City Treasurer has been leading this relationship with the Kennedy School. BOH is interested in the value of such a database to track problem properties, and its value to help predict future problems. Not certain if the city manager will agree to adopt usage of this database in the city. It will require a staff person (new or existing) to manage and be the “data guru.” BOH agreed it would ultimately make work more efficient.

Continued frustration expressed by BOH members re. inability to get data on housing inspections from ISD but hope that the newly developed database will enable such sharing.

Madeleine updated the BOH on the Center for Research on Social and Environmental Stressors in Housing across the lifecycle, and plans to recruit 100 Chelsea residents this summer.

Discussion of the lead in water due to contaminated pipes. EPA has allocated funding to which the city is applying to help ease the burden of addressing the problem.

Public Health Nursing Report: Six active TB cases; concern that this hasn't gone down from previous month. Luis will ask Joan to attend next meeting re. the adherence of these cases to treatment.

Tobacco Regulations: New FDA regulations include requirements that mirror our recently passed regulations. These aspects include extending the definition of tobacco and nicotine containing products to include e-cigarettes, cigars and hookahs. We discussed updating the workplace smoking regs which also are going to be changed at the federal level.

CDC Operational Readiness Review: CDC director of public health and emergency response, MassDPH and an independent consultant came to meet with Luis re. disaster response (chemical, nuclear, biological and radioactive) not included among these are floods, sewage or climate events. Public health would support Alan Alpert and Fire dept., first responders.

Madeleine asked Luis and BOH members to put Tuesday July 19 on their calendars for an NIH sponsored disaster response table top exercise in Boston. More information to follow.

Summer Camp Licensing: Ongoing re. inspections and CORIs.

Substance use reduction initiatives: North Suffolk Mental Health reports to the city re. the navigator program. Need identified for transitional housing. City Manager has allocated money to this, in addition to navigators and treatment services. One bed guaranteed for treatment any time needed. Bellingham Square is doing much better/fewer users loitering. Health Innovations is a van that has also been coming to Bellingham Square to provide services with assistance from navigators (testing and counseling). They have come twice and it seems to be effective. The program will be transferred to the police dept. for funding/administrative purposes.

Mosquito control: All the usual precautions are being planned for mosquito control with extra attention and concern re. Zika virus. Chris brought up concern that garbage, dumpsters and trash cans are water collection sites that are also breeding grounds for mosquitos. Commercial establishments are also using residential grade waste receptacles which is a problem. Luis will address this with ISD. David Healey will come again whenever we ask him to...

Other:

Odors related to Global Oil/11 Broadway: Report from company that there have been no complaints for the month of April 2016. Residents should call the company with complaints James Lally, Global Companies LLC: 617-660-1100

Boston Hides and Furs: Company update that they are continuing to clean the inside and outside areas, getting quotes for replacing the exterior fences. No knowledge of complaints. Questions or concerns: 617-884-1566

BU/Harvard Center/CRESSH: Soldiers home contact For stationary monitors. The city has an office there! Francisco Toro with an office also right next to Luis. On Tuesdays at the soldiers home. Veterans services officer for the city of Chelsea.

Methane mapping: We are working with Nathan Phillips at BU to plan a methane mapping project in the city this summer. Cate reported that Marginal Street has had a lot of work repairing gas pipes. They knew of one leak, went to repair it, and the repairs were extensive.

Next mtg: Chris will send us a poll asap for June, July and August.

Respectfully submitted,

Madeleine Scammell