

City of Chelsea

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2017

5:00 PM – Public Library

Attendance:

Christopher Miller (Chair), Catherine Maas, Dean Xerras and Madeleine Scammell.

Luis Prado (Agent/HHS), Paula McHatton (public health nurse/HHS), Jeff Stone (North Suffolk Collaborative); City Councilor Enio Lopez.

Absent: Emmanuel Tellez

Visitors: GE Foundation funds a primary care internship for 4 weeks. Three medical students interning from MGH listened into the meeting.

Meeting called to order by C. Miller at 5:00pm

Public Comments: Roy LeBlanc, owner of Bella Isla Express, came at the recommendation of ISD to request a variance for his restaurant 181 Washington Ave. The restaurant has 12 seats. There is no public washroom. One for employees in the back through the kitchen. He expressed the concern that it is dangerous for diners to go through the kitchen to use the bathroom. Luis explained that ISD thought he would need a variance from the plumbing code. According to Luis, however, there is no reason for a request. The board asked questions about what codes in particular there was concern about being violated. Luis determined that there is no code for which the Board of Health has authority to give a variance. No action was taken. The board wished Roy well with his business and hoped there would be no problems.

Minutes: June minutes approved.

Correspondence: Luis raised the question of how to share information with Board of Health. For example, Global Oil/11 Broadway has had no violations and no complaints over the last period. Conversely, Boston Hides and Furs is emitting odors again, from the loading dock on Marginal St. The drainage system is not functioning effectively, resulting in stagnant water on the property that is the source odors. Luis is getting complaints, the City Manager is involved, and the odors are impeding the use of the park. Boston Hides and Furs has stopped with their updates required of the consent order.

The board agreed that Luis will add a permanent agenda item to BOH Mtgs, Reports and correspondence. It will include the sub-headings, Boston Hides & Furs, Global Oil, and Wood Waste.

Additionally, Madeleine requested that Luis include items on certain months when we should anticipate a discussion. For example, this month, the food inspection report is due to the state. Luis received the notification that it is late. Ideally, we would have seen the report before it was sent.

Public Health Nurse Report: Paula presented the communicable disease report. The board discussed the Legionellosis case and Paula explained that she works a lot with the infection control nurse at the Soldier's Home. Mumps incidence is still increasing... they all work in a restaurant or bar, or a cleaning service, but they are all different (I.e., not knowing each other,). Active TB is relatively low for Chelsea now. We are also getting fewer refugees in Chelsea than in the past. Flu season is around the corner, Paula is preparing with orders of vaccines.

Luis hasn't heard anything about West Nile Virus monitoring in Chelsea, or prevention activities that usually occur.

Jeff Stone, North Suffolk Collaborative: The Board welcomed Jeff has been on the job six days, mostly meeting with people who work in health in the three communities that together form the Collaborative. Jeff gave some of his background. He worked for the Massachusetts Health Council the last five years. Prior to that he worked with HMOs/health care organizations, as a researcher. Most of his work has been research on how communities are dealing with the opioid epidemic which contributed to a report given to the Governor of MA. It included best practices on developing and working in coalitions to address addiction. Jeff also worked with employers across the state, developing outreach materials for employers, and employee assistance programs. Also worked with Chamber of Commerce. Opioids is a big topic of concern for Jeff. He also worked at the Urban League in Roxbury for several years, and in racially and ethnically diverse organizations and groups. He is setting up appointments with as many people as possible to learn as much as he can, and then will report to the city managers.

Farm animals: The policy in Chelsea is that farm animals are not permitted without permission from the Board.

Next mtg: Sept. 12, 5:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Madeleine Scammell