

City of Chelsea

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2017
5:00 PM – Public Library

Attendance:

Christopher Miller (Chair), Catherine Maas, Dean Xerras and Madeleine Scammell, Emmanuel Tellez. Luis Prado (Agent/HHS), Paula McHatton (public health nurse/HHS)

Visitors: Dunia Barrios, Doreen Maya, Pierre Joseph, all registered nurses and students at UMass Boston.

Meeting called to order by C. Miller at 5:05pm

Minutes: July minutes approved.

In future BOH members will include the public health nurse in all emails to Luis, including meeting minutes.

Public Health Nurse Report: Paula presented reports from July-Sept. We now have 40 cases of mumps since February. No children. Mostly adults 20-40 yrs. Most people have not been vaccinated with MMR or have unknown vaccination history. In many cases, they have been diagnosed with mumps previously, but Paula is the first to inform them.

Seven cases of TB, which also is on the rise. It is flu season... Paula recently did a clinic at the senior center and is actively vaccinating. The North Suffolk Collaborative will have a meeting in a couple of weeks along with the Cambridge Health Alliance. Mass DPH recently published a Hep-A advisory but we have no confirmed cases in Chelsea.

Boston Hides & Furs: In the park across the street from BH&F one of the drains doesn't work and the water levels around the drain get very deep. Luis met with company, their engineer and DPW because it is an additional source of odor. They need to find solutions to keep the drain from getting clogged (e.g., a sand and water separator?) The Board can issue a fine if not addressed quickly.

BH&F has also begun to send regular reports again.

“Rat task force” established. City Manager has requested heavy plastic trash barrels and recycling barrels. An Information session on October 25th 6:30 PM at the Senior Center. Open to the public to learn about rat behaviors, hot spots, what to do if we see them...

FDA food initiative standard funding opportunity. Mimi Graney presented to the Board giving a summary of a proposal submitted to FDA. If funded, the city will get a “mentor” to do a detailed self-assessment of where we are on the standards and develop a work plan for meeting

the standards of Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards - September 2015. There are 9 Standards:

1. Regulatory foundations (city codes, etc.)
2. Trained regulatory staff
3. Inspection program based on HACCP principles
4. Uniform inspection program
5. Foodborne illness and food defense preparedness response
6. Compliance and enforcement
7. Industry & community relations.
8. Program support and resources
9. Program assessment

(MS: Look here for more info:

<https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/RetailFoodProtection/ProgramStandards/ucm245409.htm>)

Luis commented on the fact that regulations and standards of the federal government (i.e., FDA) are not always the same or consistent with State standards and codes. And maybe this initiative could support developing best practices?

Mimi also reported on the very successful SafeServ day-long training in July at the Williams School. Two simultaneous trainings were conducted, one in Spanish and one in English. They were trained and then took both the certification and the allergen awareness test.

Chris asked if the City was planning to hire another food inspector. Mimi responded it is up to the City Manager but that currently our inspectors are doing many more inspections than the average.

Regional projects: City received ~\$500,000 from MA for substance abuse prevention programs. HHS is the fiscal conduit. They are conducting interviews for the new hire.

November 1: Health Collaborative meeting in Winthrop 8:30 – 11:00 AM

October 13: MGH presenting all research in the City done recently. Interest expressed by BOH members. Luis will send us information.

Next mtg: Nov. 14, 5:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Madeleine Scammell