

# City of Chelsea

## Board of Health Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2018

5:15 PM (EDT)– Public Library

**Attendance:** Christopher Miller (Chair), Catherine Maas, Dean Xerras, M.D., Emmanuel Tellez, Madeline Scammell, (Board Members); Luis Prado (Director, HHS); Bonnie Carroll, Director, Six City Tobacco Initiative, Paula McHatton, Public Health Nurse, Dr. T. Stephen Jones, Epidemiologist (Ret.), Centers of Disease Control (via telephone), Garrett Simonson, Regional 4B Coordinator, Cambridge Health Alliance, Beverly Munroe, Danielle (Last Name Unknown), Leigh Cornell, Geraldine (Last Name Unknown), Medical Student Interns, Massachusetts General Hospital

Meeting called to order by the Chair, Chris Miller at 5:18 (EDT)

### **Public Comments/Misc.:**

**Dr. T. Stephen Jones** via conference call asked the Board to join other communities in urging Governor Baker to require an independent Comprehensive Health Impact Assessments to understand and mitigate the health risks posed by natural gas infrastructure in Massachusetts. Board was previously informed of the growing consensus across several communities of experts that natural gas infrastructure contains carcinogens, heavy metals, radioactive elements, and contributes to bad air conditions (tiny particles which aggravate asthma and other lung diseases).

Chelsea is the site of critical energy and hence natural gas facilities. Previously the Board did not sign on due to concerns regarding the wording of the letter (a reason many communities cite for not yet agreeing to join the 67 cities/ towns or 34% of Massachusetts residents). Gas leaks are already a concern in Chelsea. National Grid reported 29 known gas leaks. Nathan Phillips from Boston University independently monitored 148 leaks in the city.

**Catherine Maas** motioned to table further discussion to the next meeting. Motioned unanimously approved.

**Emmanuel Tellez** motioned to add to next meeting's agenda a discussion on the ban of "nips" (50 ml of liquor alcohol) enacted by the Licensing Board on May 23, 2018. Motioned passed unanimously.

### **Item 1: Tobacco Control Update**

**Bonnie Carroll** reported that the City Clerk received the new regulations extending the prohibition of vaping wherever smoking is already banned. To better raise awareness of vaping she has collected an example of several products that can help the board identify

these. An update about concern about the legal sale of cannabis, in gummy form in particular, may be forthcoming in the next meetings.

**Item 2: Regional Public Safety Plan 4B**

Garrett Simonson reported Chelsea is one of 60 MA communities covered under the above plan. Plan has several funding streams and reporting obligations on the maintenance, improvement, measurability of efforts to dispense/ deploy medical countermeasures in the event of all hazards. Plan requires interdisciplinary, interagency, and partner coordination. 8/15 required drills have been conducted. Site visit possible later this fall.

**Item 3: Approval of May 8, 2018 minutes.**

Approved with one abstention.

**Item 4: Public Health Nurse Report**

Paula McHatton reported that Public Health Nurses from Winthrop, Revere, and Chelsea have met to share ideas and information. Suggestion by Chris that the Board of Health should also consider doing so. North Suffolk has tried to do this. Question by Emmanuel about the legal public meeting law and whether that may prevent convening. As it would not be a meeting but conference/ public meeting law would not apply. Luis offered to share update about further coordination.

**Announcements:**

Next meeting: July 10, 2018 at 5: 15 PM EDT.

New board member joins next meeting.

No meeting in August.

Dedicating half an hour to discuss how to share tobacco control ideas with Eric Wyle of Revere and the Town of Winthrop.

Moment to recognize Madeleine Scammell for her ten years of service to the Board. She will continue to be involved as an activist/ advocate and valuable member of the community.

Meeting adjourned 6: 24 PM EDT