

City of Chelsea

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2018
5:30 PM (EDT)– Public Library

Attendance: Christopher Miller (Chair), Catherine Maas, Dean Xerras, M.D (via telephone), Emmanuel Tellez,(Board Members); Luis Prado (Director, HHS); Bonnie Carroll, Director, Six City Tobacco Initiative, Jeff Stone, Director, North Suffolk Public Health Collaborative, Strehphon Treadway, Assistant City Solicitor (community partners); Jessica Souza, Pat F., Laurie H. (public; nursing students).

Meeting called to order by the Chair, Chris Miller at 5:31 (EDT)

Item 1: Follow up from past joint meeting of the Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop Boards of Health, re: Community Health Assessment. Jeff Stone updated the board on the September 11, 2018 meeting regarding the next Community Health Assessment. Conducted every three years, the next assessment is unique in that Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop communities' needs will be evaluated together. State and federal agencies, area hospitals, and stakeholders such as CAPIC and Cambridge Health Alliance will collaborate. Focus groups, individual interviews, surveys to professionals, public stakeholders, are underway. While most needs are known, the assessment also detects new and emergent needs. Ms. Maas noted Chelsea's needs may be more impacted by the environment than surrounding communities. Maas also suggested each board present on their community's top three concerns.

Winthrop Board of Health members' proposed clearing house of public health resources (to guide which organization to contact, under what circumstances) was favorably received. The purpose is to how address common needs. The health assessment ultimately is sent to the Attorney General's Office and Internal Revenue Service.

Item 2: Public Comments. There were no public comments.

Item 3. Public Health Nurse report postponed. Update from Luis, re: West Nile. 36 cases reported in Massachusetts, a record year, none detected/ reported in Chelsea. No special action is proposed to address the recent increase. This may be reconsidered in February/ March.

Item 4: November meeting. The board agreed to meet earlier in the month to accommodate a public hearing for the revisions to the Solid Waste Regulations. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 6, 2018 at 5: 15 PM (EDT), in the Library.

Item 5: Vaping paraphernalia update. Ms. Carroll distributed materials from the awareness campaign and presented Juul and Blu e-cigarettes, as well as the industry's ongoing scrutiny by the FDA. Past manufacturers of blunt wraps seem to have developed a cigar to comply with regulations.

Item 6: Tobacco License Revocation Hearing

Lakhivan Singh, a partner of Family Market, located at 369 Broadway, appeared before the board. The board heard Ms. Bonny Carroll and Mr. Singh's reports on past inspections, where violations of the Chelsea Board of Health Tobacco Control Regulations, sections F, cigar pricing, and G, sale of flavored products by nonspecialized tobacco store, H, sale of blunt wraps were found. The board discussed whether a language barrier would impede compliance and suggested Mr. Singh find a translator of English/ Punjabi to better understand the city and state's regulations. The board order a seven day suspension of the license to begin Monday, October 15, 2018. Mr. Treadway will send a letter to formally notify the business. Ms. Carroll will effectuate the suspension. Mr. Singh was informed he has the right to appeal by appearing before a judge in court.

Item 7: December meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, December 11, at 5: 15 EST, in the Library. No meeting will be held if no critical issues are pending.

Next meeting: November 6, 2018 at 5: 15.

Meeting adjourned at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Emmanuel J. Tellez
October 11, 2018