

City of Chelsea

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2018

5:15 PM – Public Library

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

Bonny Carroll, Tobacco Control Agent; Jeff Stone, North Suffolk Collaborative; Mimi Graney, Downtown Coordinator, City of Chelsea.

Two nursing students from Regis College also attended and a Physician's Assistant student from MGH Institute for Health Professions

Meeting called to order by C. Miller at 5:15pm

Public Comments/Misc.:

Jeff and Cate discussed plans in MA to use funds from the Volkswagen settlement. Every state is getting money and MA is getting \$75 million from VW over 10 years. The amount paid to MA is based on how many VWs we have in MA. The purpose of the VW money is to take NOx out of the air, emitted by vehicles manufactured by VW.

Jeff went to a meeting at Mass DEP who will be responsible for doling out the funds. He will send opportunities to Luis to share with us regarding Eligible Mediation Actions that any community can apply for eventually. Cate described her activities advising the DEP reg. what they can do with this money, via Green Roots.

She elaborated: there are two proposed pots of money. One plan would take our transportation sector and turn it electric. Charge for infrastructure, pay attention to EJ Communities that are usually left out of that. One electric bus will be in Chelsea, our new Silver line. But the charging stations are big and need to be located throughout MA. So they are trying to establish essentially a RGGI for transportation (RGGI- regional greenhouse gas initiative, was specific to power plants) that would be along the entire east coast of electronic vehicles. DEP is in charge of the money, so they are not participating in these discussions. The second part of the money is to have an electric infrastructure. There is dissent among EJ communities that do not want to go along with something modeled on RGGI based on the experience that RGGI money hasn't served EJ communities well.

You can get more info from the VW website, electrifyamerica.com

DEP also has a survey on their website with more info on this.

FDA food initiative standard project: Mimi talked about the new, multi-year voluntary food standards grant. She passed around handouts related to the self-assessment the city is engaged in

now based on the 2015 Food Standards. She also shared a new Food Establishment Inspection Report that requires the Inspector indicate which items are IN v. OUT of compliance, rather than simply indicating there are violations but not specifying which violations.

The Board asked why artificial trans fats are not included on the check list. Mimi explained that any changes to the form must be approved by the state. The inspectors are planning to use the "other" category for artificial trans fat category. Concern was expressed by the board that this is a regulation in Chelsea just like any other, and should be included among the items checked as In or Out of compliance. Mimi indicated ISD did not want to change the form yet, and suggested we see if and how well ISD used the form and then offer input.

Cate and Chris from the BOH are going to Pontiac MI (along with Mimi and Maria from ISD) for the mentoring meeting next week. Mimi walked through the agenda for the meeting in MI.

Boston Hides and Furs: City Manager Ambrosino joined the board to describe actions taken by the city to address regular complaints related to standing water that has not been draining properly, and which is the responsibility of BH&F. The City recently hired a new director and assistant directors of DPW, one of whom is in charge of street work and underground utilities, including Water and Sewer. He was previously in charge of Georgetown Water & Sewer Commission and is an engineer by training. This DPW asst dir recommended a water collection and treatment system with BH&F. The City sent them a formal letter saying that they needed to identify a solution, with an initial order in January. The company did not respond in a satisfactory matter. The City followed up again, indicating that they are now operating in violation of the consent order between the City and BH&F. They could be fined and taken to court for contempt. That was sent Feb 10th Law requires 30 days before implementation of fines from that time. If they do not respond, the City will plan to fine them daily and send notice of intent to file a contempt complaint in court. As of March 6, they had not responded.

Public Health Nurse Report: Paula presented communicable disease report. Only one case of Mumps since last month. Flu activity increased. She shared advisories re. Meningococcal infections in MA (none here), salmonella related to Kratom (an opioid substitute), updated childhood blood lead screening guidelines.

Tobacco control: Bonny reported that our workplace smoking restrictions are not up-to-date. Our definition of tobacco has not been updated to reflect our tobacco sale restrictions that defines regulated substances as nicotine containing. If we do not update these regs, we are susceptible to vape shops allowing people to use the products in the stores and elsewhere. The board agreed to schedule a hearing to update our definitions for the workplace regulation. The planned to hold the hearing immediately prior to our scheduled meeting in April. Luis will invite Cheryl Sbarra. Hearing from 5:15 – 5:30. Board mtg begins at 5:30.

Bonny talked about wholesale distributors as well. The regs do not fall under her ballywick, but we should consider sampling of products in those buildings as per our workplace regs. Luis inquired about the siting of such facilities in proximity to schools. Bonny did not know if there were such regs, but will look into it.

Another question: What products require a license for tax purposes?

Finally, Bonny informed the Board of a new nicotine containing product called Juul, which is very popular among youth. It is an e-cig / vape that looks like a jump drive and it plugs into the USB port of a computer. A “pod” is equal to an entire pack of cigarettes. Young people are getting very addicted. The pods are all flavored. Kids think they are sugar flavored water and don’t even realize there is nicotine in it. And the Juul company is trying to get into the schools. Bonny recommended we tell schools to let the attorney general know if contacted by Juul. The product could also be used with THC containing oils. Juuls. Juuling.

Animal Control Issues: Officer Teixeira from Chelsea Police animal control unit came to speak to us. The city is having a rabies clinic May 6, free shots for dogs and cats and also free microchips. Volk park in Chelsea. Last year they had over 600 pets. The city also takes the opportunity to educate residents on dos and don’ts of animal ownership, including the dos and don’ts of “do do.” [I made that up.] Offer Teixeira talked about the viruses that can be transmitted from one dog to another via sniffing poop.

There is also a program with the MSPCA- free spaying and neuter for dogs and cats along with microchips for Chelsea residents.

And, there are coyotes in Chelsea! They do eat small animals...

Community Health Assessments: Jeff is organizing a meeting to talk about CHAs. Luis proposed that we educate ourselves on different types of community health assessments and consider alternatives. Jeff is focused specifically on the laws requiring hospitals to engage in Community Benefits Programs. MGH’s Center for Community Health & Improvement does their assessments focused where they have centers (Chelsea, Revere, Charlestown and Everett.) Dean offered that MGH uses evidence based tools to plan the assessment. Luis proposed the use of CASPER, created by CDC which is standardized. March 21st is the first meeting in Revere City Council chambers to talk about their CHA.

Dean emphasized that the process requires input from the community. Paula would like to see more work on the Social Determinants of Health; the focus last time (three years ago) was child obesity, substance use, and childhood/youth depression. Jeff shared with us the publication he worked on, *Common Health for the Commonwealth*. We will continue this discussion next meeting.

Minutes: February minutes approved.

Next mtgs: April 3, 5:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Madeleine Scammell

