

# BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

April 22, 2015

Watertown Administration Building, Third Floor Meeting Room

**CALL TO ORDER:** Dr. John Straus called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

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**PRESENT:** Dr. John Straus, Dr. Barbara Beck, Richard Arnold, Deborah Rosati, Director of Public Health, Donna Moultrup, Interim Health Director, Kristel Bennett, Chief Environmental Health Officer, and Dan Repella, Health Officer.

## **Letter from Coalition for Responsible Retailing**

The Board discussed a letter received today from this retailers group which proposed additional regulations around access to minors and the minimum age for nicotine vapor product sales. The Board acknowledged that they've already adopted some of the recommendations, but would like the Tobacco Coalition and D.J. Wilson from Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) to offer an opinion.

**Minutes:** Dr. Barbara Beck offered a motion to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2015 meeting. Richard Arnold seconded the motion. Voted unanimously.

## **Nomination of Agent of Board of Health – Cheryl Snyder**

D. Rosati reported that Wesley Chin is no longer with the Tobacco Control Program, but Cheryl Snyder will be assuming some of his duties. Richard Arnold offered a motion to appoint Cheryl Snyder, Tobacco Control Program Inspector, as an Agent of the Board of Health for the purposes of tobacco control program activities. Dr. Barbara Beck seconded. Voted unanimously.

## **General Food and Fish Market – Administrative Hearing**

### **Present: Piro and Denise Ikonomi**

Kristel Bennett informed the Board that General Food and Fish Market has had repeat violations involving expired and past date perishable and non-perishable food being offered on the shelf and in inventory for retail sale. This has been noted by the inspector during the last five inspections, since the beginning of 2013.

Denise, Piro's daughter, indicated that he is in the store every day, she is not. She said that they inherited some expired product when they bought the store, and Piro has had difficulty managing the inventory while operating the store. They have a manual system, not automated, so it is difficult to control products that expire on different days. Some perishables are monitored daily, and they have just purchased a scanner system. Richard Arnold suggested use of a calendar to log all product dating. Dan Repella related his findings during inspections and indicated that dusty items often signal that a product has been on the shelf for some time, and that inspections are conducted every six months and some products have been expired for three or four months past date. K. Bennett indicated that non-perishable product could be offered for sale as a discounted item in a segregated area, not with the regular inventory. Denise requested a copy of this section of the Code so that they are clear about this.

Richard Arnold offered the following motion: “that General Food and Fish Market must comply with the Food Code and Chapter X of the State Sanitary Code 105 CMR 590.000. Should repeated violations and further non-compliance of the Food Code and the State Sanitary Code 105 CMR 590.000 be observed then the Board of Health may suspend General Food and Fish Market’s Permit to Operate a Food Establishment under Chapter X of the State Sanitary Code 105 CMR 590.000.” The motion was seconded by Dr. Barbara Beck and voted unanimously.

**Gerry’s Italian Kitchen**  
**Present: Suhail Oweis**

K. Bennett indicated that the March 25, 2015 inspection revealed repeat violations and a high number of critical violations, including a food employee handling ready to eat food without gloves and proper hand washing, and a food employee prepping raw animal food and other food products without properly sanitizing food contact surfaces. The re-inspection on April 1, 2015 revealed compliance with the March 25<sup>th</sup> inspection. Suhail Oweis informed the Board about his challenges with managing staff to handle food properly. He’s been in this location for two years. He reported that he hired a consultant to do ServSafe training. A March 28, 2015 report from his consultant indicates recommendations for correction of the violations and that he and six employees attended ServSafe training. Four of the employees are ServSafe certified.

Richard Arnold offered the following motion: “that Gerry’s Italian Kitchen retain the services of a Professional Food Consultant who is able to speak the primary language to the staff. The Professional Food Consultant must complete monthly audits for a period of six months and train the staff in the proper procedures for maintaining compliance with the Food Code. Gerry’s Italian Kitchen shall provide a copy of the Professional Food Consultant service contract to the Health Department by May 1, 2015. The Professional Food Consultant shall provide a copy of an audit to the Health Department by the May Board of Health meeting for review. Gerry’s Italian Kitchen and the hired Professional Food Consultant must attend the May Board of Health meeting for an update. Gerry’s Italian Kitchen is required to maintain compliance with Chapter X of the State Sanitary Code 105 CMR 590.000, should inspection reports reveal trends in non-compliance, repeated violations, and a high number of violations of 105 CMR 590.000 then Gerry’s Italian Kitchen’s Permit to Operate a Food Establishment may be suspended or revoked before the Board of Health.” The motion was seconded by Dr. Barbara Beck and voted unanimously.

**Keeping of Animals Regulation Discussion**

Donna Moultrup updated the Board on her most recent research on bee keeping and on the most recent draft of the proposed Keeping of Animals Regulation, Draft #3. She visited “Off the Vine,” a Cambridge based company that retails numerous products including honey from Tanzania. She indicated that she has spoken with Sharon Bauer from the Watertown Bee Committee, and will be attending their May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. She will be working on a separate swarm policy. D. Moultrup also discussed the difference between Cambridge, Boston and Somerville’s regulations which promote Urban Agriculture, and the proposed Watertown regulations which are intended to control for nuisance conditions. She also reviewed the following: limiting to one beehive, prohibiting sale of eggs and honey, setbacks, and educational

materials. The Board requested clarification of the terms “Animals,” “Exotic,” and “Household Pets,” the need to make permitting proactive, incorporating the area required for keeping certain animals (per NH regulations), and perhaps having Animal Control Regulations/Ordinance incorporated. D. Rosati indicated that the Planning Department is able to assist with demonstrating what the proposed setbacks will mean via the GIS system, and that the ACO is interested in having the Animal Control Ordinance updated. The Board agreed to continue the discussion at the next Board of Health meeting.

### **Program Updates**

D. Rosati provided the following updates:

- Grants
  - DPH mini-grant for Opioid Abuse Prevention - application has been submitted that allows for expanded Sharps Collection and Disposal.
  - CHNA 17 Non-Competitive Grant – working on application that allows for activities related to training and education around the CHNA 2011 Community Health Needs Assessment. Proposed programs include Mental Health First Aid training for town staff, and providing funding to LiveWell Watertown for staffing and program development.
  - Marshall Home Fund grant funding – was re-applied for.
- Community Services Resource Specialist – met with Town Manager and Wayside Youth to discuss; there is support for funding this program.
- Tobacco Control – educational documents were developed for handouts; visits are being made by Health Dept. staff, signs are being priced, and on July 1<sup>st</sup> fines will begin being assessed for non-compliance.  
The Board requested that DJ Wilson be contacted to provide information on flavored tobacco products labeling.
- Household Hazardous Waste collection – pre-registration is no longer required; first collection was a success.
- “One Boston Day” cleanup of Filippello Park with WZLX 100.7 was well received with over 15 cubic yards of debris being removed from the hillside. WZLX is interested in future collaboration.
- The Board was presented with the 2014 Health Department Annual Report compiled by K. Bennett.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 9:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Deborah M. Rosati, Director of Public Health

**Minutes Approved: May 20, 2015**