

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

July 23, 2015

Watertown Administration Building, Lower Hearing Room

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. John Straus called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM.

PRESENT: Dr. John Straus, Dr. Barbara Beck, Deborah Rosati, Director of Public Health, Kristel Bennett, Chief Environmental Health Officer

Public Comment: No appearances

Old Business: The Board requested that D J Wilson from MMA-Tobacco Control be brought into an August or September meeting to discuss hookah and the Board's regulations.

There was discussion about wellness surveys and health data that is available for use particularly in grant applications. D. Rosati noted that there is data from a 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Survey. The Board requested whether an updated wellness survey needs to be conducted through the schools.

Public Health Priorities Planning

LiveWell Watertown

Present: Stephanie Venizelos, Coordinator

Ms. Venizelos presented an update on the history of LiveWell Watertown, recent sources of funding, its structure, and efforts to foster its growth. There was discussion on potential sources of funding for LiveWell efforts including partnering with the Recreation Department to increase adult active living programs, and through CHNA grant funding for health eating and living initiatives. The Board was supportive of LiveWell's efforts and pleased to see a collaborative approach.

Other sources of grant funding for the Health Department was discussed including through CHNA 17, Emergency Preparedness, and the SAPC (Substance Abuse Prevention) grant that was obtained through Wayside with Watertown as a lead community.

The Board expressed interest in obtaining Health Indicator Data and inquired about whether an intern could be obtained from a School of Public Health to assist with conducting a survey.

The Board requested that Stephanie be invited back to provide an update in September.

Board of Health Minutes – June 30, 2015

B. Beck proposed a change to the June 30, 2015 minutes from the term hookah to flavored tobacco; and to strike one sentence in the last paragraph. Motion - B. Beck, Second-J. Straus; approved 2-0 as amended.

New Business

The Board discussed having an annual meeting with Town Council to elicit information on what the Councilors envision as priorities for the Health Department.

Health Priorities Planning Discussion

Hazardous Materials

Discussion about existing requirements and program currently being placed “on hold.” The Board requested the following:

1. Update regulations to require annual fee with a surcharge mechanism for repeat violations.
2. Develop an educational program of prevention, encourage alternatives
3. Update regulations to be informed by EPA regulations
4. Develop training program for inspectors

Asbestos Abatement

Discussion regarding asbestos abatement regulations and program being under jurisdiction of Mass. DLI, Workforce Development. Applications and complaints may be filed with the State. The Board requested that fee be removed from the fee schedule.

Food Trucks

At staff recommendation, change licensing to January to December schedule. For consideration and further discussion:

- How many inspections are being conducted?
- What is the re-inspection fee?
- Increase the permit fees.
- Should there be a plan review application and fee?

Keeping of Animals – continue to work on this with Donna Moultrup as a consultant.

Abrasive Blasting Regulations

K. Bennett indicated that RRP is under the jurisdiction of the Building Department – power sanding and blasting need RRP if lead paint is present.

We respond to complaints and issue approximately 10 to 15 permits per year. We have regulations which need updating. D. Moultrup was working on this. Training of staff is also needed.

Personal Protective Equipment

Inspectors may encounter human waste, bed bugs and other contamination during inspections. D. Rosati indicated that a protocol or policy for the use of PPE needs to be developed. B. Beck indicated that the equipment was be targeted for the type of contamination. A protocol will be tailored to the situation.

Animal Control Officer

D. Rosati indicated that most ACOs are under the jurisdiction of the Police Department, in some cases for good reason as the Police may need to assist with the use of a firearm for injured animals. J. Straus recommended that the Police Chief be approached about interest in a transfer to that department, and to also inquire about the use of a tranquilizer gun. The Board expressed

interest in keeping the position with the Health Department to assist with the Keeping of Animals regulation.

Other Business: J. Straus introduced a new toolkit for health practitioners entitled “Teen SBIR” – Screening to Brief Intervention. Pediatricians are being trained with this new screening information to assist with better identifying alcohol and substance use in teens. It is available through the Mass. Clearinghouse.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

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

Approved: October 15, 2015