

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

September 14, 2015

Watertown Administration Building, Third Floor Hearing Room

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. John Straus called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

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

Public Comment: No appearances

Animal Control: D. Rosati reported that the Police Department is not able to take the Animal Control program into their department. The Board asked whether a tranquilizer gun would work sufficiently for sedating an injured animal.

The Board indicated that the Keeping of Animals regulation should be kept separate from the Animal Control Ordinance.

Recommendations on dog park rules will be submitted to Council Subcommittee. The Ordinance needs to be changed to provide exception for dogs in dog parks as they are currently prohibited.

Public Health Priorities Planning

Food Inspection Program

Educational Series

D. Rosati reported that she's attempting to obtain an intern from B.U. to assist with a food educational series – creating a database of emails and providing monthly educational newsletters. R. Arnold recommended Constant Contact for newsletter format and tracking who is reading.

K. Bennett indicated that tablets are used in field for photos, researching code, and emailing from the field. They are not able to use for timing of inspections or triggering upcoming inspections. Most locations are being inspected twice per year, low risk coffee/tobacco shops are being inspected once per year.

Swimming Pool Inspections

K. Bennett reported that inspections are being done twice per year. There are 12 seasonal pools and 11 annual pools. Variances will be needed for some of the pools. Recommendations are made to the State for variances. For example, at Perkins School, there is an old pool with an obstruction on the deck.

Temporary Food

Applications and handout information is being redesigned. Risk level may be considered on plan review application.

Residential kitchens

There are 4 or 5 permits for such items as pecan pies, spices, two with baked goods.

Tobacco Control

Age requirement is going to 21 in March 2016. Hookah tobacco cannot be unflavored – there was an exemption offered for six months. All flavored tobacco was banned to prevent kids from purchasing. Natalie Miller is doing twice annual checks. Inspections are funded through the State and involve certain cigarette brands. But the youth is purchasing other varieties now. It was recommended that Rep. Hecht be contacted about the requirement to see if cigarette varieties can be unspecified. Our own staff can do compliance checks with other varieties.

Other Updates

The Board was updated on the Fee Schedule, LiveWell Watertown, and Emergency Preparedness grant funding. It was suggested that a fee might be able to be charged for flu clinics.

Wayside and the SSRS will be invited to the next meeting to provide an update.

Next meeting – tentatively October 14th.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 9:58 PM.

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

Approved: October 15, 2015