REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes of Meeting

December 18, 2019

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A Regular Meeting of the Board of Health was held at the Town Hall on Wednesday, December 18, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was duly posted. Board members present: Chairwoman Jeannine Lopes, Michael Silvia and Peter DeTerra. Also present: Mary Freire-Kellogg, Health Agent and Amanda Blais, Administrative Assistant.

Before the Board:

Chairwoman Lopes asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 14, 2019. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Silvia; seconded by Mr. DeTerra. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed septic repair plans for 125 New Boston Road. The Health Agent informed the Board the system was not in failure, however the current owner wishes to make repairs in case the owner decides to sell in the future. Mr. DeTerra stated this is a voluntary repair. Motion to approve the septic repair plans for 125 New Boston Road was made by Mr. Silvia; seconded by Chairwoman Lopes; abstained by Mr. DeTerra. The motion passed.

The Health Agent informed the Board she had been notified by the owners of 29 Winsegansett Avenue in relation to the owners having a difficult time finding someone to perform a percolation test during the winter; the owners intend to have the perc test completed.

The Health Agent informed the Board the percolation test had been completed for 5 Wamsutta Avenue, however the engineer did not turn in septic plans; the property has been vacant for some time, resulting in skipping a Title V inspection and moving straight to a repair.

The Board reviewed the proposed FY21 budget for the department. The Health Agent explained additional funds to be requested:

- $4,000 – new office equipment due to office relocating to Veteran's Office
- $1,000 – organizational classes at the Recreation Center for children as part of hoarding remediation
- $7,000 – iPads and program software for Retail Food Standards Program; sunscreen dispensers and maintenance

Motion to approve the proposed FY21 budget was made by Mr. Silvia; seconded by Mr. DeTerra. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing:

None.

Health Agent's Report:

Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board of the annual Town Report due date (January 3, 2020) and questionnaire to be completed per the request of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. DeTerra asked if the annual report would be emailed to the Board and the Health Agent confirmed it would.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board of a septic loan program that is available for homeowners who wish to upgrade their system. The Health Agent stated that if an owner is out of compliance with their septic system, there is funding available. The Health Agent further informed the Board that the Buzzard's Bay Coalition is seeking letters of support to forward to the State Legislature from those who are in favor of the program. Motion to endorse the Health Agent to send a letter of support from the Board was made by Mr. Silvia; seconded by Mr. DeTerra. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board that the certified letter and documents that were mailed to Jeffrey Mattos regarding the Open Meeting Law Violation Complaint were mailed back to the department as "unclaimed". The Attorney General advised the Health Agent to email the documents to the complainant; the Health Agent did as she was advised. Since the complaint had been addressed, further communication from the Attorney General or the complainant have occurred.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board of the new tobacco and vape regulations. The Health Agent discussed these new regulations with the Board; flavored tobacco has been banned through the State and will take effect June 1, 2020.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board of a shigella case. The complaint was reported through the department, where Community Nurse Martha Griffiths handled the case and the health inspector performed inspections at the two food establishments the complainant stated they had eaten at. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health closed the case.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board there were still food establishments that had not renewed their permits for the 2020 season. The Board reviewed the list of unpermitted establishments. The Health Agent stated she would contact the establishments for a third time.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board of the Fishermen Wellness Fair she plans to attend in New Bedford on January 11, 2020. The Health Agent stated Barley Wellness from Fairhaven has agreed to participate.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg reminded the Board of the upcoming Emergency Preparedness Event. The Health Agent had the information for the event emailed to Community Nurse, Police, Fire, etc. The Board stated they would check their schedules and requested a reminder email be sent to them.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board of the AFDO grants she has received. The Health Agent has received funding to complete Retail Food Standards 4 and 9, as well as furthering the NACCHO mentorship program. The Health Agent requested the Board bring back former Health Inspector, Katherine Leaver, to work on the risk factor study portion. Motion to approve Katherine Leaver work through the AFDO grant was made by Mr. Silvia; seconded by Mr. DeTerra. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board there is a vector grant program available that she will apply for. The Health Agent would like to be more proactive with vector solutions in Town relating to ticks, mosquitoes, rodents, etc.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg informed the Board that a representative from the Bristol County Mosquito Control came to the department to discuss possible interest in the Health Agent applying to be a member of their Board.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg requested the Board re-appoint Courtney Benoit to perform administrative duties for the Retail Food Standards program. Motion to approve the re-appointment of Courtney Benoit was made by Mr. Silvia; seconded by Mr. DeTerra. The motion passed unanimously.

Invoices/Other Business:

Chairwoman Lopes read aloud a Thank You note the department received from Reid Santos, an intern from UMass Dartmouth. Ms. Santos expressed her gratitude about her internship experience, the Health Agent and staff.

The next Board meeting will be January 22, 2020.

There being no other business before the Board, Mr. Silvia made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. DeTerra. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda L. Blais

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Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant