

**CITY OF NEWBURYPORT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
MEETING**

Name of Committee Meeting:

BOARD OF HEALTH

Date of Meeting: July 16, 2009

***LOCATION: 2nd Floor
Conference Room
City Hall 7:00pm***

7:00PM Call to Order

Minutes from previous meeting, May 21, 2009 reviewed

**7:15PM Walter Montgomery, Director of the Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito
Control – Spinosad Pilot Program – Presentation**

OLD BUSINESS

1. Crow Lane
2. Gerald F. Moynahan, 182 Storey Avenue Updtae
3. Regionalization Update

NEW BUSINESS

1. Northern Essex Community College – Flu Season nursing agreement
2. Enforcement Conference (Pls refer attached)
3. Plum Island Connection Orders
4. Solid Waste Update – New Rate

City of Newburyport

60 Pleasant Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

Newburyport Board of Health Meeting
MINUTES- July 16, 2009 7:00pm
Newburyport City Hall – 2nd Floor Conference Room

Meeting Called to Order 7:02pm

Robin Blair O.D. Chairperson	Absent
Susan Beluk M.D.	present
Patricia Lawrence R.N.	present
John Morris, Director of Public Health	present
Dave Madden, Salisbury Director of Public Health	present
Esteban Cuebas-Incle, Entomologist, Northeast Mosquito Control	present
Walter Montgomery, Northeast Mosquito Control	present

7:15pm: Walter Montgomery, Director of the Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control described briefly a new pesticide, “Spinosad” to the Board then introduced Esteban Cuebas-Incle, Entomologist for the Northeast Mosquito Control Program.

Esteban stated that “Spinosad” is a new pesticide recently introduced by the Northeast Massachusetts Control program as part of their new advanced mosquito technology. The active ingredient is derived from a naturally occurring soil dwelling bacterium reportedly collected from soil in an abandoned rum distillery on a Caribbean Island in 1988. The bacteria produced compounds while in a fermentation broth.

Spinosad kills susceptible species by causing rapid excitation of the insect nervous system. It must be digested by the insect; therefore it has little effect on sucking insects and non-target predatory insects. It is relatively fast acting.

Esteban stated that "Spinosad" has a great deal of potential, in particular when used in catch basins. "Spinosad" is an organic product, not as yet certified in Massachusetts. The organic farmers have high praise for this product.

Susan Beluk MD inquired as to the use of "Spinosad" within the surrounding communities. Esteban stated that this program is experimental and as part of the presentation this evening they are requesting permission to use this pesticide in Newburyport once certified in Massachusetts. No other communities within the area are in the program or using "Spinosad".

Walter Montgomery went on to describe briefly the culex pipiens mosquito. This mosquito is usually the most common pest mosquito in urban and suburban settings. The culex pipiens mosquito lays its eggs in tin cans, buckets, discarded tires, catch basins and other containers that hold stagnant water.

Patricia Lawrence RN inquired regarding the application of the pesticide. Will it be used strictly in catch basins? How will it affect animals? Walter Montgomery stated the placement will be restricted to storm drains only. Regarding the effect to animals, Esteban stated that this pesticide is used to control a variety of insect pests, including fruit flies, spider mites, and fire ants. The product has practically no odor. Its soil absorption is moderately strong and it degrades rapidly in the environment primarily through photolysis. Spinosad shows an extremely low toxicity when ingested by larger animals and absolutely no additional adverse effects from chronic exposure.

Susan Beluk MD inquired as to the difference between a catch basin and a storm drain. Walter Montgomery stated, "there is no difference, they are one in the same". Susan Beluk MD inquired about the possibility of a large storm occurring and the basins overflowing. Walter Montgomery advised the Board that extensive studies have been done regarding just that situation and whereas the pesticide itself falls directly to the bottom causing no concern for overflow.

John Morris, Director of Public Health asked Mr. Montgomery and Esteban once approved by the Board when would the program start. Mr. Montgomery stated the program would begin once registered to start in Massachusetts. Also, Mr. Morris advised the Newburyport Board that the Newbury BOH Chairperson, Dr. Vincent J. Russo has already given

permission for Newbury to begin this program but Walter Montgomery has chosen Newburyport for its pilot program.

Motion to approve "Spinoad" pilot program for the City Newburyport
Patricia Lawrence RN; seconded by Susan Beluk MD.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Crow Lane Update

Mr. Morris advised the Board that over the past week we've had numerous odor complaints. The Newburyport Health Department and the DEP are there daily doing inspections. Mr. Morris also stated that the New Ventures employees accidentally cut into a slope too much causing a burst of odors. Mr. Morris stated that he went directly to the area complaining including the new Medical Building.

Dave Madden advised the Board that over the course of the last few days he has stayed late in the evening and instructed New Ventures employees to stay late until the daily work was completed and everything is contained. Mr. Madden also stated that tomorrow they will dig out and put in a clay dam and pack the asphalt in. Dave and Jack instructed them what they had to do and it must be done. The Rain created the BREAKOUT. Mr. Morris stated that the grading and shaping will happen in 3 weeks. In addition, Mr. Morris stated they wanted to speed up the process of the FML.

Mr. Morris stated he will keep the Board apprised of the New Ventures situation.

2. Gerald F. Moynahan , 182 Story Avenue Update

Mr. Morris advised the Board that Mr. Moynahan has yet again cancelled the last scheduled meeting. Mr. Moynahan has postponed 3 meetings so far. We may in fact have to call him in for another hearing. Mr. Morris may have to find another means of entering this property. Also, Mr. Morris advised the Board that Mr. Moynahan will not allow Elder Services in his house. Mr. Morris stated that he may have to go to housing court to resolve this matter. It has almost been 2 years since this started. Mr. Morris will keep the Board apprised of this matter.

3. Regionalization Update

There may be a meeting next Thursday according to Donna Holiday.
07/23/09. Salisbury and Amesbury have both voted for the regionalization.
We now have the final document. Roughly 31 people have been involved.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Northern Essex Community College- Flu Season Nursing Agreement: Melinda Gibbons RN, advised the Board of Health of the Nursing Agreement between Newburyport and Northern Essex Community College. As per Mrs. Gibbons, we are starting to plan our flu season now. Mrs. Gibbons stated that she is working on finalizing the agreement with the Director of the program and she'll keep the Board advised regarding the progress.

Susan Beluk MD inquired as to how the nurses will be utilized. By glancing over this contract there is no clear definition of their responsibility. What concerns do we have regarding liability for the city? How many hours do they need for their clinical rotation? We'll need to advertise, post signs in each clinic that there may be "Student Nurses" on duty. Patricia Lawrence RN also inquired if this contract is for one year.

Mrs. Gibbons stated that we are looking at the possibility of 3 inoculations per person at each clinic, flu, swine flu and pneumonia. Some, not all of the nurses will be assisting. Others will contribute doing administrative duties. Mrs. Gibbons stated that she would like to have more RN's than LPN's. Also, signs will be posted stating "Student Nurses" on duty. In addition to Dr. Beluks question regarding liability, the nurses are covered under their own insurance through the school. Also, the answer to Patricia Lawrence's question, this contract is good for only one year.

Patricia Lawrence RN inquired if other colleges were considered. Mrs. Gibbons stated that she has called UMass Lowell among others. Patricia Lawrence RN suggested she call Salem State College. Mrs. Gibbons will call Salem and get back to the Board.

Motion to approve nursing agreement Susan Beluk MD; seconded by Patricia Lawrence RN.

2. Enforcement Conference

Mr. Morris held numerous "Enforcement Conferences" this week. A report of each individual food service establishment will be presented to the Board.

3. Plum Island Connection Orders

Mr. Morris advised the Board that under the Plum Island ACO Order he has sent out "Notice of Violation, Order to Correct" letters to various Plum Island homes. To date no one has requested hearings.

4. Solid Waste Update – New Rate:

Effective July 1, 2009, pursuant to Section 9 of the Contract for Municipal Solid Waste Disposal entered into between Wheelabrator and the City of Newburyport, the new tipping fee decreased from \$66.50 to 65.41 per ton.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Morris will be away. If a meeting is needed we may want to schedule the first Thursday of the month or we can hold off until September.

Susan Beluk MD suggested the "Blue Lights" be flashing when the pesticide is being used. Mr. Morris stated that he will contact Comcast, the City Website and other means of media to alert the public.

Susan Beluk MD also stated how difficult it was trying to get in touch with the Health Department. The phone line was busy all morning. Mr. Morris stated that he is looking into correcting that problem.

Susan Beluk MD inquired regarding the recent gasoline spill which occurred July 8, 2009, in the vicinity along Interstate 95 just south of the Whittier Bridge.

Mr. Morris stated that the Dept of Environmental officials advised that the cleanup was going well, but their presence would be seen for some time to come. Air quality tests have come back clean. This has been no lateral contamination. The water around the outfall continues to improve. The booms which were placed immediately are there only as a precaution.

Susan Beluk MD inquired as to the testing of the water. Mr. Morris stated that the Health Department only tests for bacteria in the river and ocean. Dr. Beluk requested that Mr. Morris provide an update at the next scheduled BOH meeting regarding this incident.

Adjourn 8:20pm

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