

# City of Newburyport

60 Pleasant Street  
Newburyport, MA 01950

Newburyport Board of Health Meeting  
MINUTES - July 15, 2010 7:00pm  
Newburyport City Hall – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Council Chambers

Meeting Called to Order:	7:12pm	
Robin Blair O.D. Chairperson		Present
Susan Beluk M.D.		Present
Patricia Lawrence R.N.		Absent
Robert F. Bracey, RS/REHS,HHS,CHO		
Director of Public Health		Present
Sheryl Knutsen RN		Present

Robin Blair O.D., Chairperson; motion to approve minutes from June 24, 2010 meeting, Susan Beluk M.D. declined to second the motion as her attendance at the June 24, 2010 meeting was only partial. Dr. Beluk's presence occurred half way through the meeting. Approval of minutes from the June 24, 2010 meeting on hold until the next scheduled BOH meeting in August.

1. Sheryl Knutsen RN, Public Health Nurse for the City of Newburyport; introduction.

A. **Communicable Disease:**

Mrs. Knutsen submitted her monthly report starting with Lyme disease which makes up 61% of the total number of reportable diseases. Dr. Beluk stated that we'd all be surprised at the total number of cases if each physician reported every case of Lyme disease that came through their office. In addition Dr. Beluk stated that if grant money were to be made available she would like to know the demographic area within the City of Newburyport, tracing the cases of Lyme disease by age, area, sex etc....

Sheryl Knutsen RN stated that she was approached to precept a young nurse going for her degree. The topic was "Community Health Assessment". Susan Beluk MD suggested that Mrs. Knutsen guide the student toward the investigation of Lyme disease within the City of Newburyport and report back to the BOH.

**B. Flu Clinics:**

1320 doses allocated for Newburyport for the fall. Clinic locations to be worked on and confirmed with Mr. Bracey. Possible Fee discussion re: charging for flu shots. Robin Blair O.D. not in favor of charging. We do not want residents to *not* attend because they have to pay. Susan Beluk MD stated we need to review again in the fall prior to the onset of flu clinics.

**C. Council on Aging:**

Mrs. Knutsen advised the BOH regarding a situation which occurred with Roseann Robillard, Director of the Council on Aging. Mrs. Knutsen was approached over the phone to drive to the Council on Aging located at 50 Water Street, to change a post-op dressing for a resident who advised Mrs. Robillard that he recently had neck surgery at the VNA. Sheryl Knutsen RN advised the BOH that she declined to assist this person as she did not have a "Standing Order" as required by law to perform treatment. In addition, Mrs. Knutsen did not have the supplies to treat this resident. Also, all of this is based on hearsay. There was no note from the physician providing instructions so that another person changes the dressing. Mrs. Knutsen advised the BOH that possibly the surgeon would have wanted to schedule another appointment to examine the residents post-op surgery. Both Dr. Blair and Dr. Beluk agreed with Mrs. Knutsen. However, Susan Beluk MD advised Mrs. Knutsen to follow up with Mrs. Robillard to make sure the resident was assisted.

**D. Health Wellness Fair:**

Sheryl Knutsen RN advised the BOH that she is working with Mr. Bracey regarding the Wellness Fair scheduled for Wednesday, September 15, 2010 from 1:00pm – 4:00pm. In addition to other facets of the fair, Mrs. Knutsen has researched

cholesterol screening possibilities. The first company researched charges \$16.00 per person w/minimum of 75 people. The second company researched charges \$9.00 per person for cholesterol and B/P with a \$50 fee per hour per nurse. Robin Blair OD inquired as to where the idea of a Wellness Fair came from. Mr. Bracey stated that the Mayor suggested it. Mr. Bracey stated he would like to conduct this fair with all volunteers. Also, in addition to the cholesterol screening, which we have just realized may be too costly, Mr. Bracey stated that he'd like to offer to the employees the following; B/P's, BMI's, Fitness Options and Nutritional Options.

Referring back to the cholesterol screening, Susan Beluk MD suggested that we send an e-mail to all city employees inquiring if they are up to date on their cholesterol screening and suggest that their reply be anonymous and if 90% of the employees respond it would be a waste of time to hold the cholesterol screening.

Mr. Bracey suggested that we e-mail all city employees prior to the fair to remind them how important cholesterol screening is as it raises an awareness of high blood cholesterol as a risk factor for coronary heart disease.

Mr. Bracey stated that he would provide an update to the BOH at the next meeting regarding the status of the fair preparations.

**2. Crow Lane Update:**

Mr. Bracey advised the BOH that the Mayor continues to work with Mr. Thibeault regarding the capping of the landfill. Mr. Bracey also stated that he has had several discussions with Mr. Thibeault himself regarding the capping and Mr. Thibeault is still working with DEP. Mr. Bracey also stated that Mr. Thibeault's company is looking to use the "Recycling Center" as a staging area. Dr. Beluk and Dr. Blair both inquired as to complaints received. Mrs. Woundy advised that she has received not even one complaint to date. Mr. Bracey will keep the BOH posted as to any new developments.

**3. 182 Storey Avenue:**

Mr. Bracey advised the BOH that Mr. Moynahan has requested an extension of his back property taxes, water and sewer bills. According to Mr. Moynahan he advised the NBPT Water & Sewer

Dept to shut off his water back in 2003, which he has proof of. This was never taken care of. Mr. Bracey advised that Mr. Moynahan's brother-in-law would be paying his back taxes: \$210 real estate and \$895 Water & Sewer. Susan Beluk MD inquired as to how Mr. Moynahan is holding up in court. Mr. Bracey advised that the court date was rescheduled for August 12, 2010 at 2:30 pm and he will keep the BOH posted.

4. **Animal Waste / Sub Committee Meeting:**

The meeting was held but continued until another date. Ari Herzog, Councilor at Large, investigating certain aspects of this topic and will provide to the sub-committee at a later date.

5. **Open Air Seating Variance:**

Mr. Bracey proposed a blanket variance for any food service establishment wishing to have open door/air seating with conditions of the State Sanitary Code for Food Establishments, 105CMR 590.007 and the Federal Food Code 6-202.15, Outer Openings Protected. An application fee should be applied. Enforcement of this variance will start January 1, 2011. All Newburyport food service establishments wishing to have an open door or open air seating will be required to request a variance and inspection from the Health Department. This variance does not include outside patios, deck, curb or sidewalk seating.

Robin Blair O.D. inquired as to what food service establishments this would pertain to. Mr. Bracey stated the following; Agave, Port Tavern, Rockfish and Taffy's to name a few.

Susan Beluk MD inquired as to how this would affect "Michaels Harborside" seating. Mr. Bracey stated that it would not affect "Michaels" as they keep their sliding glass doors closed. This variance is guided toward food service establishments that open their windows and doors to the outside with no protective screening to prevent insects from entering the building.

Susan Beluk MD and Robin Blair O.D. suggested the Mr. Bracey clarify his wording in the letter so that the food establishments will have a better understanding and not be confused. Mr. Bracey will make corrections as suggested and represent to the BOH at the next meeting.

Mr. Bracey stated that the food service establishments in question would be required to obtain this variance through the Health Dept, not the BOH. The application fee would include the administrative work and the inspectional time by the Director. All new food service establishments would not have to go through this procedure of obtaining a variance.

Robin Blair O.D. inquired as to what the current fee is for a "Plan Review". Mr. Bracey advised \$150.00. Dr. Blair stated he believes that this figure is too high for a variance. Mr. Bracey suggested \$50.00 as this would cover the administrative work and the inspection aspect of it.

6. **Not Your Average Joe's:**

Susan Beluk MD requested that Mr. Bracey inspect the door(s) at this establishment as a young child had her hand severely injured while walking into this establishment. Mr. Bracey will investigate and report back to Dr. Beluk.

Adjourn at 8:45pm