

**Newburyport Board of Health
Minutes of the Meeting on August 23, 2018**

Date of Approval 10/11/2018

Attendees: Dr. Robin Blair, Chairperson,
Dr. Rob Slocum, Board Member
Dr. Sam Merabi, Board Member
Frank Giacalone, Director of Public Health
Molly Ettenborough, Energy & Sustainability

Meeting called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Dr. Robin Blair

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes from the July 19, 2018 Board Meeting was made by Dr. Merabi; seconded by Dr. Slocum. Votes to approve – 3; votes to oppose – 0. Minutes of the July 19, 2018 were approved as submitted.

Solid Waste and Recycling – Molly Ettenborough:

Solid Waste Contract: The current Solid Waste and Recycling Contract was extended until December 31, 2018 allowing time for changes to the proposed contract to be considered by City Council and the Waste Reduction Committee. City Council has submitted their recommended changes to Kopelman and Page for review and incorporation into the proposed contract.

The Waste Reduction Committee has been met twice, most recently last Friday when they viewed a presentation by Waste Zero, which is a Pay as you Throw (bag) Program. Waste Zero provided information on various options (including: one free bag per week, free bags for seniors, no free bags, different size bags, etc.) They also provided feedback from some of the other 145 communities in Massachusetts that have implemented ‘pay as you throw’ programs. Ms. Ettenborough offered to forward Waste Zero’s power point presentation to any Board Members that would like to view it.

The Waste Reduction Committee has broken down the costs associated with solid waste collection as follows:

The cost per year for Recycling and Trash under the current contract:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Single family residences | \$1,000,000 |
| Food establishments in downtown area | \$24,000 |
| Apartments | \$85,000 |
| Condominiums | \$229,000 |
| Rooming Houses | \$603 |
| Exempt (non-profit) Properties | \$162,000 |

(Approximately half of the cost associated with 'exempt properties' is due to trash and recycle pick up from city building/schools. Other buildings that are in the 'Exempt Property' category include Newburyport Housing Authority, YWCA, churches and synagogues.)

Ms. Ettenborough has drafted a summary of the various options that have been suggested, such as maintaining a status quo for services (with associated price increases), establish different service sectors, and requiring food establishments (including schools and non-profits) to compost organics (at their own cost). Ms. Ettenborough

stated that the Waste Committee is creating various models to be considered; some of which include offering one barrel (or one bag) for free, different sized bags and/or differing prices per bag. Ms. Ettenborough stated that the final decision will need to be voted upon by the Board of Health for approval. Director Giacalone suggested that the Waste Reduction Committee consider including a model that places a limit on the number of units (for condominiums and apartment buildings) that would determine whether the building(s) would qualify for city services. He also suggested to the Board that any solid waste regulations that are adopted by the Board should mimic the final Solid Waste Contract. Whatever program is implemented, considerable education of residents will be necessary.

The Board requested that Ms. Ettenborough present them with a report showing the cost differential between a model that mimics the current contract (with the addition of any condominiums that would now receive city pick up, etc.) versus the amount that is currently being paid for trash and recycling services. The Board noted that the goal is to provide fair and equitable services across the community. Ms. Ettenborough invited Board Members to attend the next Solid Waste Task Force meeting which will be held at the Senior Center on September 21 at 9:30 a.m.

C40 Cities Conference: Ms. Ettenborough informed the Board that she and the Mayor recently attended a conference in Sacramento held by Climate Mayors which is a worldwide consortium of Mayors that was created in 2005 and which gained further momentum when the current Administration in Washington refused to sign the Paris Accord. Participating Mayors in the Climate Mayors' initiative, now referred to as C40 Cities, all signed a Declaration of Reduction of Energy as well as Waste which confirmed their resolution to reduce per capita generation of municipal solid waste by 15% by 2030; and reduce the amount of solid waste disposed of by 50% per capita and to increase the rate of diversion from landfills by 70% by 2030. Ms. Ettenborough stated that Massachusetts is running out of landfill space and it is now necessary for waste to be shipped to out of state locations, which is extremely costly.

Public Health Nurse Update:

Nourish the North Shore: The Nourish the North Shore Cooking Class Series is now underway. There are four classes per series and they are being well received by participants.

The Public Health Nurse continues to work on the community garden that is located in West Newbury at the Brothers' Monastery where fresh produce is grown and distributed to local food pantries including ones located at senior housing buildings and at a recent pop-up pantry held in conjunction with Our Neighbor's Table. Over \$75,000 in grants was recently received which will allow for the building of greenhouses, addition of on-site water supply and creation of individual garden plots to be used by residents.

Flu Clinics: Influenza vaccine for this season's Flu Clinics has been ordered. Initially a sizable order of Flu Mist was ordered from the state, however, DPH has now issued a statement that inoculation is the preferred method of immunity. The state provides vaccine at no charge for children 18 years of age and under, and for adults who are un-insured or under-insured. For state-supplied vaccines the Health Department is reimbursement only for the cost of administration; the proceeds of which are deposited into the Health Department's revolving account to pay for future vaccine purchases. The Board suggested that the Department offer a wide variety of vaccines, as

Health Departments did in the past. Director Giacalone stated that it is his understanding that insurance companies may not provide reimbursement and/or administration fees for most vaccines (other than influenza.) This year's community-wide family clinic will be held at the Nock-Molin School, which is the city's Emergency Dispensing Site. The Flu Clinic will serve as a 'trial run' for the emergency preparedness plan that is required by the state. The Clinic will also be held on the same evening that the school is offering an informational movie for parents, which will likely increase attendance at the Clinic. Additional clinics will be held at the senior housing buildings and at the Newburyport Senior Center.

MAVEN – Disease Reporting: Director Giacalone stated that there were no unusual trends in communicable diseases noted this month.

Festivals:

- **Yankee Homecoming:** Director Giacalone informed that the Board that the Yankee Homecoming festival went well, however the review and approval process created significant work for the Health Department office due to late and incomplete applications from the event coordinator. One Hundred dollars from the \$500 security deposit from the food vendor, Eva's Organic Farm Butcher Shop, was retained because the vendor did not remove the stand/table, food items and soda until 11:30 am the day after the event ended. There was an issue with trash being left behind in the bull nose area which was handled by Department of Public Service but which should have been the responsibility of the Yankee Homecoming Committee and the food vendors.
- **Riverfront Festival :** The Riverfront Festival will take place on September 1 from noon to 6 p.m. Attendance is expected to be upwards of 20,000 people. During the event, Water Street will be closed to vehicle traffic and the downtown parking lots will be closed to any further entries as soon as they are full. Director Giacalone provided a map of the proposed layout of vendors for the event. Trash and Recycling issues are being addressed; and there will be a heavy police presence at the event.
- Our Neighbor's Table is holding an event featuring 8 -10 food trucks on September 8. The proceeds of the event will benefit local food pantries.
- The Chili Cook-Off which features 10 - 12 food vendors will take place on October 6 at The Tannery.
- The Fall Festival is scheduled for October 7 and 8 at Market Square and is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

Food Inspector: The Board was informed that Chris Webb, one of the City's contracted Food Inspectors, has submitted his resignation. Mr. Webb has provided inspection services (both routine and for temporary food events) for the city for the past eight years. Director Giacalone is seeking to hire a replacement inspector.

Housing:

7 Drew Street – This home was condemned by the Health Department two years ago due to unsanitary conditions related to hoarding behavior. The winter before last the property flooded due to burst pipes; and water and electricity still have not been restored. Because of the condition of the property, including initial violations which have not been corrected, the property remains condemned. The Health Department has recently received complaints from neighbors regarding conditions at the property and, therefore the Health Department is pursuing receivership through the Attorney General's Office. The Attorney General's office will contact the owner to set a court date and to establish a timeline for the owner to correct the issues or for contractors to make the necessary repairs under receivership.

Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO) - Waste water treatment plants up the Merrimac River periodically release untreated sewage into the Merrimac during periods of heavy rains that overwhelm the city/town's combined sewer systems. The effluent seems to be diluted to a certain extent by the time it reaches Newburyport. There are nineteen communities that have permits that allow for release into water bodies. The communities that discharge into the Merrimac River are Lowell, Lawrence, Haverhill, Manchester, and Nashua, NH. The Newburyport Health Department only receives notification of CSOs from Lowell and Lawrence. The Board was provided with a sample notification of these CSOs which are often not received until two days following an overflow. Last month the Health Department performed routine beach water testing on the Merrimac River two days after a CSO had occurred. While the test results were within normal limits, they were elevated in comparison to the usual weekly results. During last winter, the Health Department was notified of a CSO and the Harbormaster had detected a brownish color to the water. A water test was performed and while the results were elevated, they did not exceed the limits that apply to bathing beaches. Director Giacalone informed the Board that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) require that water treatment plants obtain a Discharge Permit in order to release combined sewer into water bodies. The Board discussed whether they could petition the DEP to follow the same protocol for CSOs that is used to notify communities of a biohazard release. Director Giacalone will notify the Mayor that the Board of Health is concerned about CSOs and feels that there should be a means of routinely notifying residents when a CSO has occurred. The Board discussed drafting a general statement that educates residents that following heavy rains there may be discharges from water treatment plants that may elevate bacteria levels in the Merrimac River.

Purchase of Tobacco: The state approved an increase in the age required to purchase tobacco to 21; however, the law will take effect on a gradual basis as follows: Effective January 1, 2019 the purchase age will be 19, on January 1, 2020 the age will be 20; and on January 1, 2021 will be 21. The state allows for anyone who has attained the age of 18 before January 1, 2019 will still be allowed to purchase tobacco products. If the Board wishes to increase the purchase age to 21 sooner than the state, the Board would need to notify the state by December 30, 2018. The Board determined that at this time no change will be made to the current regulations (which require that a person be 19 years of age or older to purchase tobacco products.)

Food Establishments:

- A new butcher shop is planned to open soon at the location of the prior Warren Street Deli
- An application is pending for a coffee shop which is due to open on Pleasant Street at the prior location of Beautique.
- Garrison Inn is currently undergoing renovations to incorporate the kitchen that was previously David's into a kitchen and larger dining area for the Inn.

Seals: Director Giacalone provided the Board with a copy of a newspaper article concerning a rash of recent illness and death of seals. Three seals have been found dead on Plum Island within the past week. A newspaper article cited that 250 dead seals had been found along the shoreline of Maine and that it is currently suspected that PCB ingestion may be causing genetic changes in the seal population which is making the seals more vulnerable to influenza and respiratory diseases that are causing the illnesses and deaths.

Motion to adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Slocum and seconded by Dr. Merabi. Votes to approve – 3; votes to oppose – 0. Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.