

**Newburyport Board of Health Meeting
July 18, 2013**

Date of Approval: 8/15/2013

Attendees:

*Committee Chair: Dr. Robin Blair
Committee Member: Dr. Susan Beluk
Committee Member: Patricia Lawrence
City Health Director: Robert Bracey
Note Taker: Patricia McAlarney*

Call to Order: 7:00 PM – Meeting called to order.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the June 20, 2013 meeting were approved with the following changes:

- In the section titled, “Mattress Recycle Program Proposal” - The sentence: ”Patricia Lawrence stated that the Board is in support of the concept of recycling the mattresses” shall be changed to read, “Patricia Lawrence stated that the Board is in support of the concept of recycling the mattresses; however, the concern is with the increased cost associated with hauling the mattresses away.”
- In the section titled, “*Vector Management Plan / Mosquito Control*” – The following two sentences will be added to the third to last paragraph, “The Board requested that just prior to the beginning of mosquito spraying ‘season,’ the Health Department publish a reminder for the public advising them of their right to opt out of ground spraying and what procedures must be followed to have a property added to the Opt Out list.” “The Board requested that the Health Department publish on the City website the link to Northeast Mosquito Control’s website which includes a Question and Answer section related to mosquito control.

Health Chairman Announcements: None

Public Comment: None

Ticks: Member, Sue Beluk, suggested that the Health Department consider promoting and/or selling “Tick Tubes” that contain permethrin coated cotton to reduce tick populations in outdoor areas. The possibility of identifying a grant that may be used for a Tick Tube promotion program was discussed. Patricia Lawrence suggested that the Board consider asking entomologist, Esteban Cuebas-Incle, from Northeast Mosquito Control to do a presentation in Newburyport.

Mattress Recycle Program Proposal: The proposal to increase the cost to residents for disposing of a mattress from \$5 to \$20 to allow for the mattresses to be recycled was discussed. The Board specifically noted the positive aspect of being able to recycle the mattresses; they also noted that the \$20 fee is a “break even” price (the \$5 fee resulted in a loss to the City.) The Board noted that it is beneficial to have the six month ‘education’ period during which the recycle/drop off program will be initiated but the fee will remain at \$5.

It was determined that the Health Department would make available for residents who do not have the means or desire to transport the mattress on their own a list of at least three vendors that could be hired to pick up mattresses and deliver them to the Recycle Center. Concerns over the additional fee that a hauler would charge to residents to pick up the mattress and bring it to the Recycle Center were discussed. One hauler had stated that the fee would be between free and \$15 depending on where in the house the mattress was and how far the drive was from the house to the recycling center. It was also noted that residents would be encouraged to take advantage of “take back” offers by mattress retailers when a new mattress is purchased. The Board determined that the program should be run as a one-year pilot program which could be re-assessed and modified, if needed, in a year’s time.

The Board voted unanimously to approve a one-year Pilot Program that would increase the fee from \$5 to \$20 for the disposal of mattresses. Mattresses will no longer be collected curbside; they must be delivered to the Recycle Center. Upon initiation of the program, the fee will remain at \$5 for the first six months. The Board will assess the program after one year to determine if any modifications to the program should be made.

Aye: Robin Blair, Patricia Lawrence, Susan Beluk, Robert Bracey
Nay: None

Marine Water Beach Testing - Director Bracey reported that testing of the beaches has gone well. All reports are positive and beaches have been open.

Mosquito Control – Director Bracey noted that he has forwarded the email reports received from Northeast Mosquito Control to the Board.

Festivals – Director Bracey informed the Board that he has been working with the Yankee Homecoming Committee. So far, there have been no issues with any vendors. There will be less vendors participating in YHC than in previous years (approximately 12 this year, compared with 17 last year.)

Title V Issue – Director Bracey informed the Board that he will be forwarding to the Board a report from Martin Fair, a Title V Inspector from North Reading concerning a Newburyport residence that has experienced a septic system failure. The homeowners are requesting three different variances associated with the replacement of the system. The reason for the variance requests are due to the configuration of the lot which does not

allow for compliance with current codes. The setback requirement is 10' the homeowners are requesting a 3' setback. Mr. Fair's recommendations will be forwarded to the Board as soon as they are available. A public hearing will need to be held. The neighbors are currently being petitioned.

Bresnahan School – Director Bracey informed the Board that he held a meeting with the engineers involved in the project and discovered that an exterior grease trap had been installed without Board approval. A letter is being sent that will require a sign-off of compliance by all applicable departments (Public Services, Sewer, Building, etc.) Director Bracey has learned that both the Department of Public Services and the City Plumber have had ongoing concerns with the current plans.

Food Borne Illness - Director Bracey notified the Board of a possible salmonella outbreak at McDonald's in Newburyport. An employee, who works as maintenance staff, tested positive for salmonella. The employee sought treatment at Anna Jaques Hospital on June 17 for gastrointestinal symptoms. On June 22 he attended a private gathering (baby shower); On June 26 he returned to Anna Jaques but did not state that he worked at a food establishment and his occupation was listed as 'construction worker.' On July 5, 2013, the employee went to his primary care provider and to a GI Specialist where he tested positive for salmonella. The test results did not specify whether the species was typhi or enteric. Director Bracey also noted that the employee's son, who was a direct food handler, had worked at McDonalds but was let go a few weeks ago. The employee's daughter also currently works at the same McDonalds and recently complained of gastrointestinal symptoms. Results of her salmonella tests are pending. If the results of the daughter's tests are positive, all McDonalds employees will be sent for testing at Anna Jaques Hospital. Director Bracey stated that the owner and manager have been very cooperative and responsive to Health Department requests.

Next Board of Health Meeting – The next meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2013. A notification will be sent as to what time the meeting will start: If there is a public meeting involved, the meeting will start at 7 pm. If there is no public meeting and only an abbreviated Board of Health agenda, the meeting will start at 6 pm.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted: Patti McAlarney