

**Newburyport Board of Health Meeting
September 19, 2013**

Attendees:

Committee Member: Dr. Susan Beluk

Committee Member: Patricia Lawrence

City Health Director: Robert Bracey

Energy & Recycle Coordinator: Molly Ettenborough

Note Taker: Patricia McAlarney

Call to Order: 7:00 PM – Dr. Beluk called meeting to order.

Review of Minutes from August 15, 2013 meeting:

The Minutes of the August 15, 2013 were reviewed and approved with the following change:

- ✧ The statement Patricia Lawrence left meeting shall be changed to Patricia Lawrence was absent for the following discussion.

Health Chairman Announcements: None

Public Comment: None

Business:

Trash & Recycling Coordinator Updates – Molly Ettenborough:

Household Hazardous Waste Day – The City event will be held at Perry Way on Saturday, September 21. Clean Harbors will be present to collect chemicals. Other items to be collected include electrical appliances, styrofoam, metal items etc. The event is co-sponsored by Newburyport, West Newbury and Merrimac. Another group is also hosting an E-Waste Day on the same date; as they did last year. The only concern with the events running simultaneously is that there is a minimum quantity of recyclables that must be met for Clean Harbors. Newburyport's electronic waste program funds programs for children with disabilities. Molly Ettenborough stated that she suggested to the director of the other E-Waste Day that they run their collection day on a different date next year. Molly Ettenborough also noted that there is a group that is selling mattresses as a fundraiser for the high school band. She asked the Board if they agreed that she should contact the organizer of the fundraiser to determine whether the vendor will be willing to accept old mattresses from the purchasers of new mattresses.

Mattress Recycling Program – Molly Ettenborough, Energy & Recycle Coordinator Molly Ettenborough announced that the Mattress Recycle Program that had been previously proposed to the Board will not be moving forward. Several factors were taken into consideration in deciding not to pursue the grant that would have helped to fund the recycling program. The factors included: increased cost to residents, reliance upon residents to transport, or hire someone to transport, mattresses to the recycle center. She did, however, recommend to the Board that the Bulk Sticker program be

continued but that the current \$5 rate be increased. The increase rate would also better align Newburyport with other cities that offer similar programs at a rate of \$10 to \$20 per item. Molly explained that the proceeds of bulk sticker sales are deposited into the City's Solid Waste Account to help fund the cost of educating residents about trash and recycling issues and programs. A formal request to have the bulk sticker fee increased will be presented to the Board at the next meeting. There was discussion concerning the types of items that are not accepted for curbside (bulk) collection, specifically: white goods, tires, and chemicals.

Solid Waste Contract – Molly Ettenborough, Energy & Recycle Coordinator
Molly addressed the concern regarding the fuel surcharge that is included in the City's Solid Waste Contract and explained that she had contacted other communities that have similar recycle programs, the Department of Environmental Protection and had sought legal counsel and found that the fuel surcharge is typical with these programs.

Housing Code Trash Reports – Health Director, Robert Bracey - Under City Ordinance, Section 883 only residences/establishments in the downtown area are required to contain their trash in totes; other areas of the City are not required to utilize totes for their trash. The local regulation also states that property owners with three or more units must provide totes for tenants' use. The State Code requires that all trash be displayed in tightly covered receptacles. It is up to the Board to decide whether to enforce the State Sanitary Code whereas Newburyport allows trash to be put in bags. Patricia Lawrence stated that only a few areas in the city seem to put trash out in bags, one of which is at the corner of Market and High Streets. She suggested that the Board contact the property owners to advise them of the need to contain the trash in totes. Director, Robert Bracey indicated that trash related issues are addressed and codes are enforced as the issues arise. Patricia Lawrence stated that it is her understanding that State Code, which must be followed, is more stringent than the existing local Ordinance. Molly Ettenborough noted that the Health Department received a large volume of phone calls, the majority of which are trash related issues. Dr. Beluk suggested that a letter be sent to the condominium association that is in violation and address the trash complaint as a single issue. Patricia Lawrence stated that the only trash related rules set forth by the condominium association is that trash is not allowed in common areas and not allowed on private decks. There is no dumpster at this location and the Association would be fined if the trash was not properly contained and animals, such as skunks, were able to access it. Patricia Lawrence noted that there are ten units at this complex and on some weeks there could be five bags of trash for each unit. Molly Ettenborough suggested that due to the size and nature of the issue that it be brought directly to the attention of the condominium association. Dr. Beluk stated that this may be an opportunity to educate the tenants and encourage a more 'green' approach to disposal of items. Patricia Lawrence stated that she agreed and also suggested that the placement of trash (near driveways) be addressed. Molly Ettenborough noted that one option for the City to consider would be to adopt the 'pay as you throw' approach. Dr. Beluk noted that this may have been a good topic to have put on the ballot this year to gain community feedback. It was suggested that the topic be added

to the October Board of Health agenda and that copies of current local and state regulations related to disposal of trash be made available for the meeting.

Public Health Nurse – Health Director, Robert Bracey:

Shingles Vaccination Program – The Public Health Nurse, Pam Palombo has worked hard to get the Shingles Vaccine started. The Health Department now has the freezer and required thermometers in place and are currently awaiting shipment of the vaccine. The State is supplying doses of vaccine which will be supplemented with privately purchased vaccine which has been made available due to a grant from the Swasey Foundation.

Influenza Clinics – The Public Health Nurse has scheduled Clinics at various elderly housing buildings in the City as well as the citywide Clinics. Also, this year we will be trying to post many of the vaccine related forms and information on the City Website to increase accessibility and make for a more efficient process.

Health Fair – Work is underway for the Wellness Fair which will take place on October 26 in conjunction with a Citywide Flu Clinic.

Heart Safe Community – The Public Health Nurse organized two Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) classes for employees at City Hall. She has also earned her certification as an American Heart Association Instructor and plans to offer Chokesaver Classes which are required for restaurants with over 24 seats.

Robert Bracey informed the Board that he has presented to the Mayor a request for an increase in the number of hours that the Public Health Nurse works (from 20 to 35 hours.) The Mayor has asked the Health Department to implement some new programs and Mr. Bracey hopes that the Board will support his request for the additional work hours.

Sealer of Weights & Measures: Health Director, Robert Bracey

Director Bracey informed the Board that James Cassidy, the City's Sealer of Weights & Measures continues to do a good job and that he has recently been reappointed for another term by Mayor Holaday.

Beaches – Health Director, Robert Bracey

The beaches are now all closed for the season. There were no issues.

Animal Control Services – Health Director, Robert Bracey

Animal Control operations are all going smoothly. No issues to report.

Mosquito Control – Health Director, Robert Bracey

Northeast Mosquito Control has reported no issues in the City for the past three weeks. Director Bracey confirmed that the athletic fields had all received barrier spraying. Dr. Beluk asked the Health Director to provide clarification as to when the mosquito testing season will be over.

Food Establishments – Health Director, Robert Bracey

Oregano's – Director Bracey informed the Board that he had met with the permit holder and discussed all issues. The food permit was sanctioned but a stipulation is in place that six consecutive inspection reports will be presented to the Board of Health. If any issues arise during that period, the food permit may be revoked. Director Bracey indicated that many of the previous issues were related to the establishment having an inconsistent Person In Charge (PIC). The owner is aware of what is required and understands that the Board has extended lee-way and that it is of utmost importance that compliance be maintained.

Szechuan Taste – Director Bracey informed the Board that the restaurant had been issued a ban on the sale of sushi. They have now updated their HACCP plan which has been reviewed and approved by the Director and by the Food Inspector, Chris Webb.

Upcoming Festivals/Events

Oktoberfest – Will take place on October 28. Four food vendors are participating

Fall Festival – Will take place on October 13 and 14

Chili Fest – Will take place in October and is being hosted by the Grog in the parking lot.

Mayor's Health and Wellness Fair – Health Director, Robert Bracey

Dr. Beluk recommended that the Health Department consider having Tick Tubes for sale at the Fair. If the tubes can't actually be sold (due to Fair regulations prohibiting the sale of items) then information about how the tubes work and how to order them could be made available.

Public Health Assessment – Patricia Lawrence requested a copy of the Community Health Assessment that was completed by one of the Health Department Interns. Dr. Beluk suggested that the Assessment be added to the agenda for next month's Board Meeting.

Snow Removal – Director Bracey suggested that at the next meeting, the Board discuss the issue of enforcement of snow removal.

Landfill Update - Health Director, Robert Bracey

Director Bracey indicated that there have been recent incidents of the flares going down at the landfill and causing nuisance odors. He met with Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Contractor who was trying to figure out the cause of the problem. The Mayor has had several meetings regarding the issue and it is suspected that there may have been a leak somewhere in the system. As of now, the flare is operational and running well. DEP had requested specific information regarding dates and times of complaints from neighbors as part of the investigation. There is still some finish work to be completed.

Title V Jefferson Court - -- Health Director, Robert Bracey

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Director Bracey stated that no complaints were received from abutters of 10 Jefferson Court. The work has not yet been started. He will be inspecting the work as it progresses to ensure that all provisions required by the Board are upheld.

Meeting Adjourned – 7:24 pm