

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

January 18, 2018

Watertown Administration Building, Third Floor Conference Room

PRESENT: Dr. John Straus, Chairperson; Dr. Barbara Beck, Secretary; Richard Arnold, Member; Deborah Rosati, Director of Public Health; Kristel Bennett, Chief Environmental Health Officer

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. John Straus called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Minutes

The minutes of the December 13, 2017 meeting were approved as presented (Motion-R. Arnold, Second-Dr. Beck, 3-0).

Public Comment: There were none present for comment.

Department Updates

Recovery Resource Night – Watertown sponsored an event at the Library on January 10th as part of the Metro Boston Project Outreach which is headed up by Waltham. S. Venizelos coordinated with 20 service providers of recovery and support services for substance use disorder. A survey indicated that they spoke with anywhere from five to sixteen people in need of information, an increase from the Waltham and Newton events. The next event is being held in Belmont on February 8th.

FY'19 Budget – A preliminary budget has been submitted, and an internal budget review meeting is scheduled for January 22nd. Funding is proposed for Community Wellness programming.

People GIS – The Town is expanding its use of People GIS from the Planning Dept. to Building and Zoning for permitting and other needs. The Health Department has received a quote to implement this platform for permitting, inspections and other needs. The IT department has integrated the costs into its budget for FY'19 pending approval.

245 Boylston St. – Chapter 2, State Sanitary Code Hearing

In consideration of extension of time for correction of violations

Present: Owners -Merrie Najimy and Gabriel Camacho; tenant Janice Wahl

Kristel Bennett indicated that an inspection was conducted at 245 Boylston St. on December 13, 2017 based on a complaint from the tenant alleging rats in her apartment. The inspection revealed evidence of rats, holes in the foundation and several other violations. An order letter was issued on December 21, 2017. K. Bennett presented two service reports from a Pest Control Operator (PCO) indicating two visits to the house.

Owners Ms. Najimy and Mr. Camacho provided comments to the Board regarding their efforts to correct violations. They presented a third report from the PCO and indicated that the PCO feels that there is only one rat. They indicated that the apartment has to be free of clutter. They requested that the Order Letter be withdrawn and that conditions caused by the tenant are cited.

Mr. Camacho presented updates on all of the violations indicating that each one was corrected. He alleged that the tenant has conditions that are attracting the rats such as accessible bird feeders in the front of the house, an open garbage container below the sink, clutter in her unit, and food bait on the rodent glue traps. Mr. Camacho indicated that the PCO has placed traps, plugged holes and used sealant foam. However, no rats have been captured.

K. Bennett and D. Rosati expressed concern that the PCO was not using poison bait for the rats.

Janice Wahl, tenant, indicted that there have been some false accusations made. She has always maintained a clean house, has obtained a covered trash container under her sink, and was only placing food out at Kristel's suggestion to obtain evidence about the rats. She has seen a rat scamper down the hallway more than once but called Kristel for advice several times before filing a complaint. She is keeping food in covered containers, and has some clutter only because she had to empty out closets for the pest control treatment. There are two poison traps – one in the basement and one under the sink. She has a sick dog that uses urine pads that are not causing a problem.

Following further discussion, Dr. Beck offered the following motion: **To grant the owners of 245 Boylston St. an additional two weeks from today to address Violation #1 on the December 21, 2017 Order Letter pertaining to the presence of rats, and to obtain a statement from the Pest Control Operator indicating no additional evidence of rodent activity; and to grant the owners additional time for compliance with Violation #8 pertaining to sealing holes in the foundation, to be completed no later than April 15th, but sooner if possible, weather permitting. Seconded by R. Arnold, 3-0 in favor.**

Student Intern

The Board welcomed a nursing student intern from UMass Boston.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm (Motion – Dr. Beck, Second – Richard Arnold, 3-0)

Respectfully submitted: Deborah M. Rosati, Director of Public Health

Approved: February 22, 2018