

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

February 21, 2017

Watertown Administration Building, Third Floor Conference Room

PRESENT: Dr. John Straus, Chairperson; Dr. Barbara Beck, Secretary; Deborah Rosati, Director of Public Health; Padraig Martin, Health Officer

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Barbara Beck called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Public Comment: No comments

Minutes

The minutes of the January 25, 2017 meeting were tabled as only one member present today was at the January meeting.

Chicken and Rice Guys

Present: Kevin Lau, Owner; Kevin O'Loughlin, Business Manager

D. Rosati advised the Board that *Chicken and Rice Guys* was requested to attend this meeting due to several violations of the operation of their food trucks in Watertown over the last two years. D. Rosati reviewed a chronology of violations including operation of a mobile food vehicle without a permit for that truck on April 22, 2015, operation of a mobile food vehicle without a permit at the Arsenal Mall on June 15, 2016, and operation of a mobile food vehicle without a permit at AthenaHealth on January 26, 2017. The application submitted for this vehicle on later that day on January 26th was incomplete for lack of payment. Payment was later received on January 30th and 31, 2017. On January 31, 2017, an inspection of the two food vehicles was incomplete due to a lack of water in the holding tanks.

Mr. Lau apologized to the Board for the inconvenience and indicated that they understand that their trucks require different licenses. He indicated that the business manager, Kevin, will be maintaining a calendar with all permit renewal dates for all towns so that this doesn't happen again. Licenses expire at different times, and Watertown's used to expire mid-year, not end of year. Mr. Lau said that they have 5 trucks in total and two are now licensed in Watertown with one of them only being used for back-up.

It was very cold the day of the inspection and they had emptied the water tanks at the commissary at the end of their food operation for the day. They didn't refill the tanks prior to coming to Town Hall for the inspection.

Kristel Bennett, Chief Environmental Health Officer, who was not able to be present this evening, offered a recommendation to issue the Food Service Permits upon compliance with the re-inspection.

The Board approved the Mobile Food Vehicle Food Service Permits to *Chicken and Rice Guys* for the two mobile food vehicles that Kevin Lau has applied for. Before receiving the permit to operate in Watertown, *Chicken and Rice Guys* needs to complete the Health Department inspection. In the future, should *Chicken and Rice Guys* operate in Watertown without a Mobile Food Vehicle Permit, then their permit to operate may be revoked. (Motion – Dr. Beck, Second – Dr. Straus, 2-0 in favor).

260 Mt. Auburn St. – Continued Housing Code Hearing

D. Rosati informed the Board that the owner, Frank Pasciuto, was unable to attend this meeting. His daughter, Cynthia, reported via letter, and requested a continuance to March 21, 2017. She also reported they have started work on the bathroom and will also be working in the kitchen. The heat and water are working, however there is still little room to work and there is an odor. They were advised that the flooring needs to be replaced. They are concerned that the tenant believes he will not be evicted and that he has the approval of the Board of Health and Springwell. Springwell has not been providing services in a timely manner. She further reported that the tenant is behind in his rent and the apartment needs to be cleared. They are estimating at least \$10,000 to bring the unit back to its proper condition. They are requesting assistance with expediting the cleaning.

The Board discussed this report and expressed concern that the progress has been slow and they have concerns if this is a multi-unit dwelling. D. Rosati will speak with staff about expediting the clean-up.

The Board voted to continue the hearing on 260 Mt. Auburn St. to the March meeting and have the Health Department work with Springwell to increase services. (Motion – Dr. Beck, Second- Dr. Straus, 2-0)

Elizabeth Park, 2 Grandview Ave. – Dangerous Dog Hearing

The dog owner contacted the Health Department and indicated that she is unable to attend this hearing due to recent illness. D. Rosati indicated that the dog incidents were not directed at humans but she believed involved aggression against other dogs. She will consult with the Animal Control Officer on measures to prevent additional attacks until the hearing.

81-83 Spruce St.

D. Rosati advised the Board that an additional order was issued for this property based on the execution of an Administrative Search Warrant granted by the Court for 83 Spruce St. which was referred to the Health Department by the Fire Department for unsanitary conditions. Numerous attempts were made to gain access. Based on the Search Warrant, an inspection of the unit was conducted by Kristel Bennett and found twenty one violations of Chapter 2 of the State Sanitary Code, including non-functioning smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, rear egress stairs missing, most rooms in gross unsanitary condition, and other violations. A condemnation order letter was issued to the owner on February 17, 2017.

Following review, a motion was offered by Dr. Beck and seconded by Dr. Straus to ratify the Condemnation Order for 81-83 Spruce St. based on conditions noted during the inspection as described in the February 17, 2017 order, voted in favor 2-0.

Updates

D. Rosati reported that there was interest in someone opening a retail cigar store with a smoking area in the back. He was advised that this is not allowed. He then indicated that he may pursue opening a private smoking club. The Board advised consulting the Tobacco Regulations which limit the number of smoking areas to the three that are currently existing.

March Meeting – the dates of March 27th and March 29th are available. D. Rosati will confirm with others and establish a date.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm.

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

Approved: March 27, 2017