

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

May 23, 2018

Watertown Administration Building, Third Floor Conference Room

PRESENT: Dr. John Straus, Chairperson; Dr. Barbara Beck, Secretary; Richard Arnold, Board Member

Staff: Deborah Rosati, Director of Public Health; Kristel Bennett, Chief Environmental Health Officer (CEHO);

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. John Straus called the meeting to order at 7:13 pm.

Public Comment: There were none present for comment.

Minutes

The minutes of the April 25, 2018 meeting were approved as amended (Motion- R. Arnold, Second- Dr. Beck, 3-0).

Ginger Exchange, 92-98 Main St.

In consideration of Variance Request to Allow Acidification of Rice under 105 CMR 590.000 of the State Sanitary Code

Present: Christine Chan

Ms. Chan presented her request for a variance to acidify rice to use for sushi. She and her husband are involved in this business as well as several other managers. The main sushi chef visits all of their restaurants. He has been with them for 6 or 7 years, and he is multilingual thus he is able to communicate with staff. Ms. Chan keeps the sushi rice for only one day; it is prepared daily.

K. Bennett indicated that she has conducted a Sushi Plan Review and has found all to be in compliance.

Following further discussion, Dr. Beck offered the following motion: **To grant a variance to 105 CMR 590.000, Food Code Section 3-502.11 under the provisions of Food Code 3-502.11, to allow for the modification of a potentially hazardous food, acidifying rice to use for sushi, to render it non-potentially hazardous.** Motion was seconded by R. Arnold, and voted unanimously.

Tobacco Control Regulations

D. Rosati reported that the Department has had two pending Tobacco Control applications for Cugini's and East Coast Gas that were not considered during the last modification of the Tobacco Control Regulations. K. Bennett indicated that this brings the number of total Tobacco

Control Permits to 36, which is the number that should have been used for the cap in Section F.12.a. of the “Regulation Regarding Smoking and the Sale and Use of Tobacco Products.”

Following discussion, Dr. Beck offered a motion to modify Section F.12.a. of the “Regulation Regarding Smoking and the Sale and Use of Tobacco Products” from 34 permits to 36 permits to allow for two applications that were pending prior to the adoption of the regulations on December 22, 2017.

Department Updates

44 Katherine Road – K. Bennett reported that the handrail was installed in compliance with the timeframe. The office will continue to inspect to ensure compliance with the condemnation order. D. Rosati reported that Sean Canty has just emailed a letter to the department indicating several concerns with this case and the Board’s decision. This may be taken up at the next posted meeting.

Health Officer Vacancy – D. Rosati reported that the pool of candidates for the vacant position offered several good prospective employees. Interviews have been conducted and an offer is being made to one of the candidates.

Marijuana Update

D. Rosati reported on a recently attended conference in Canton that featured speakers on the impacts of recreational marijuana. She will share the link to the presentations when it is available.

The next Board meeting is proposed for June 20th.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm (Motion – Richard Arnold, Second- Dr. Beck, 3-0)

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

Approved: September 24, 2018