

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

December 14, 2016

Watertown Administration Building, Lower Hearing Room

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

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. John Straus called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Public Comment: No comments

The Board was introduced to Katie Lash, a nursing student who conducted an internship with the Health Department. Ms. Lash reported to the Board on a Blood Pressure educational lecture that she developed and conducted at 100 Warren St. as part of her project.

Minutes

J. Straus requested that the location of the Cocca house be added to the November 1, 2016 minutes for the 90 Marion Road “Keeping of Hens” hearing. **The minutes of the November 1, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously with the amendment (Motion-Dr. Beck, Second-R. Arnold).**

69 Elm St. – Chapter II State Sanitary Code, Request for Hearing

Present: Owner, James Delleville, Robert Finney

K. Bennett indicated that the Health Department had received a complaint alleging no heat or hot water and other violations at 69 Elm St., an inspection was conducted by Health Officers Pat Martin and Vivian Zeng. J. Straus indicated that this property has come before the Board in the past and clarified that this complaint involved the first floor, not the second or third floor as in the past. K. Bennett confirmed and indicated that the first floor had also received an administrative order in the past for violations.

V. Zeng detailed the violations noted during the inspection – evidence of mice, carbon monoxide and smoke detectors not in unit, exposed wiring, no ventilation in bathroom, electrical outlet pulled out from box, toilet not functioning and interior door missing doorknob.

Mr. Delleville indicated that 99% of the violations are “self-inflicted” because the tenant was being evicted. He indicated that everything was fine one year ago before the tenant moved in. He won a case against the tenant in Court, the tenant settled with the Court and dropped charges against him, and the lawyer advised the tenant to contact the Health Department. Mr. Delleville further indicated that he sent Mr. Finney in to make repairs but he wasn’t allowed in. He sealed up all holes with cement to prevent mice and rats from getting in. Mr. Finney lives in his upstairs unit and indicated that violations did not exist when he lived there; everything was new and there were smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Richard Arnold indicated that our role is to ensure that violations are corrected.

D. Rosati offered that the owner should notify the tenant of dates available to make repairs and the Health Department will verify that the tenant is or is not allowing access for repairs. Critical violations should be corrected as soon as possible. The owner indicated that he can have the detectors done by Monday if the Health Department lets the tenant know. D. Rosati indicated that the owner should notify the tenant and we will verify.

Dr. Beck offered a motion to extend the compliance time for repairs on the October 28, 2016 order letter to December 19th for violations 1 and 2, and December 29th for violations 2 through 7, seconded by Richard Arnold, voted unanimously (3-0).

60 Russell Ave. – Keeping of Hens and Honeybees

D. Rosati reported that notices were apparently not sent to abutters regarding the date of this hearing, thus the hearing will be postponed. D. Moultrup provided a report on the application for bees and five hens.

260 Mt. Auburn St., Apt. 1E – Ch. II, State Sanitary Code Hearing

Present: Owner Frank Pasciuto and daughter, Cynthia Pasciuto, Esq.

Ratification of Condemnation Order

V. Zeng responded to a hoarding complaint at this location and conducted a full inspection. V. Zeng elaborated on the 13 violations that were noted including evidence of hoarding with excessive amounts of rubbish and materials, the shower and tub were inaccessible, the faucet handle is broken off of the sink, there is no hot water, and there is evidence of rodent infestation. The dwelling unit was found to be unfit for human habitation. An Order Letter and Condemnation Order were issued on November 9, 2016.

The Board reviewed the Condemnation Order and Richard Arnold offered a motion to ratify the Emergency Order of November 9, 2016, seconded by Dr. Beck, voted unanimously.

Chapter II, State Sanitary Code Hearing

Mr. Pasciuto is requesting more time to correct the violations and avoid fines. The tenant is willing to work with them to clear the unit. V. Zeng noted that some progress has been made on clearing some of the hoarding. K. Bennett indicated that Wil VanDinter has worked to connect the tenant with cleaning services, and the tenant is currently residing with a friend. V. Zeng and K. Bennett confirmed that the owners are limited as to how much they can do with the current conditions.

Dr. Beck offered a motion to extend the compliance dates on the November 9, 2016 order letter to the next meeting in January, seconded by Richard Arnold, voted unanimously (3-0).

Tobacco Control Update

The Board requested a copy of D.J. Wilson's tobacco policy summary for future consideration of tobacco regulation changes.

Next Meeting – Proposed for January 18, 2017

Meeting was adjourned at 9:55 pm.

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

Approved: January 25, 2017