

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

March 20, 2019

Watertown Administration Building, Third Floor Conference Room

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

Staff: Larry Ramdin, Director of Public Health, Stephanie Venizelos, Community Wellness Program Manager

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

Minutes: Minutes of the January 31, 2019 meeting were approved with corrections (Beck, Arnold 2nd) 3-0

Public Comment:

Ernesta Krackiewicz, Watertown resident expressed her thanks to the Board for agreeing to hear the presentation on natural gas.

Body Art Permit Thanh Nguyen

The Board heard the application of Ms. Nguyen and were provided a recommendation from Wilhelmus Van Dinter, Public Health Nurse, recommending Approval. Dr. Straus inquired as to why the Board was asked to vote on the grant of the permit as they had previously voted to enable to Director of Public Health to review permits and issue them, so there is no need to bring them to the Board. Larry Ramdin responded that while the intent of the regulation was met the strict interpretation of the regulation as it pertains to the internship hours was not met. However, Ms. Nguyen's practice experience has far exceed any internship experience and recommended approval of the application. Br. Beck motion to approve the Body Art permit for Thanh Nguyen, seconded. Mr. Arnold- passed 3-0. Ms. Nguyen was provided with her permit.

Use of Natural Gas presentation- request to sign letter of support

Dr. T. Stephen Jones, presented to the Board on Natural Gas infrastructure indicating that natural gas infrastructure poses a threat to the health of individual's from infrastructure and cooking with gas can be harmful to children. He provided a copy of an article on the subject and asked the Board to send a letter of Support to the Governor. A draft was provided. Ms. Elizabeth Hayes asked if the Board had questions for the Board. Dr. Beck indicated she had a conflict as she had worked on an issue similar to this in another state and her company may participate in future in similar reviews in Massachusetts and recused herself from participation.

Ms. Hayes indicated that the Town Council voted to send a letter of support and there is a regional task force on gas leaks.

The Board indicated that they will review the documents and discuss at their next meeting

Public Comment Regulating Biological Research Laboratories

There were no public comments received.

The Board enquired as to the next steps. Mr. Ramdin indicated that he will provide the Board with copies of the comments received and the Board should discuss at their next meeting and make changes where they deem fit and finalize the draft regulation. Then they can vote on adoption. Mr. Ramdin also indicated that he had a fruitful discussion with Sam Lipson of the Cambridge Health Department and he will provide the Board with documents from a training the Cambridge holds for inspectors.

Community Health Assessment

Mr. Ramdin presented the Community Health Assessment to the Board and Stephanie Venizelos Community Wellness Program Manager, discussed the process involved with the Report. The report is a roadmap for future programming and it will be published on the website and distributed to stakeholder groups.

Board of Health Appointments

Appointment Larry Ramdin, Commissioner Eastern Middlesex Mosquito Control Program

Larry Ramdin, advised the Board that he was recently contacted by the Eastern Middlesex Mosquito Control Program and was advised with the departure of Deborah Rosati, Watertown's Commissioner Seat was vacant and the Board had to nominate an individual to fill the vacancy.

Dr. Beck motioned that Larry Ramdin be appointed as the Watertown Commissioner on the Eastern Middlesex Mosquito Control Program. Seconded, Mr. Arnold. Vote 3-0. Mr. Ramdin will send a letter advising the Commission of appointment.

Appoint of Paula Silverman, MPH Tobacco Control Program Coordinator: Agent of the Board for Tobacco Control enforcement.

The Director of Public Health indicated that there is a new Tobacco Program Control Coordinator and recommends the Board should appoint her as an agent of the Board for Tobacco Control enforcement. Dr. Beck motioned that the Board appoint Paula Silverman, Tobacco Control Program Coordinator, as an Agent of the Board Health for enforcement of Tobacco control regulations. 2nd Mr. Arnold. Vote 3-0. Mr. Ramdin will send the letters of Appointment and introduction to Ms. Silverman on behalf of the Board and department.

Department Update

Program Planning and Priority Setting

The Board deferred to program planning for future date

Future Meeting Scheduling

Next meeting will be held on April 17. Future meetings will be scheduled for the third Wednesday of each month.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. (Motion **Dr. Beck, second, Richard Arnold 3-0**)

Respectfully submitted: Larry Ramdin, Director of Public Health

Approved: April 17, 2019