

**Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2014**

Members Present:

Tom Kinzer, Co-Chair
Bea Brunkhorst, Co-Chair
Caroline Donnelly

Staff Present:

Heidi Porter, Director
Mary Firestone, Recording Secretary

Members Absent:

Sarah Thompson
Anita Raj

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M. Dr. Brunkhorst chaired.

BOH Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Kinzer moved to accept the minutes of the November 3, 2014, meeting as amended; Ms. Donnelly seconded the motion. Vote count: 3-0-2.

Discussion and Vote of Pool Code Variances --- Walkways and Decks:

Ms. Porter said that representatives of the properties with pools in violation of the state sanitary code had been informed of the Board's planned discussion on their variance request but had not been required to attend. She said that, rather than send a variance approval letter to the state Department of Public Health (DPH) and receive their comment (approval, denial or approval with amendments), she had worked with Steve Hughes of DPH extensively to craft the language for the approvals. Ms. Porter described Mr. Hughes' area of responsibility and issues that he handles across the state and her knowledge of his work with local boards. Ms. Donnelly asked how compliance would be assured. Mr. Porter explained that inspections will be done as part of the annual permitting process. Ms. Donnelly asked whether the new requirement will lead to large expenses. Ms. Porter said, in some cases there will be an increase in cost to the facilities. She then said that some towns require lifeguards for all pools. The pools being considered here do not meet the minimum standards for compliance with the state sanitary code for swimming pools. Ms. Donnelly said that the pools had been permitted in the past. Ms. Porter said that it is the pool operator's responsibility to meet the standards of the code. Ms. Porter and Board members then reviewed the proposed language for the variance letters. Ms. Porter said that town counsel has not seen the latest version of the variance approval letters. She said that the "manifest injustice" issue had been considered. The lifeguards will be required to be present during "core business hours". Not all the letters will include the "dedicated attendant" clause; it was included only if the applicant had offered it. If any applicants do not accept the terms of the variances, they may close the pool or potentially seek relief in court. Ms. Porter said that she wants to go ahead with preparation of the letters but will not send them until town counsel approves. Dr. Brunkhorst asked whether Board members wish to vote at this time. Ms. Donnelly said that she is willing.

Ms. Donnelly moved to approve the variance request for The Village at Taylor Pond, dated August 29, 2014 with specified additional safety measures as outlined in the draft letter dated Dec. 8, 2014. Mr. Kinzer seconded the motion. Vote Count 3-0-2.

Ms. Donnelly moved to approve the variance request for Heritage at Bedford Springs, dated September 25, 2014 with specified additional safety measures as outlined in the draft letter dated Dec. 8, 2014. Mr. Kinzer seconded the motion. Vote Count 3-0-2.

Ms. Donnelly moved to approve the variance request for Doubletree by Hilton Boston, dated September 2, 2014 with specified additional safety measures as outlined in the draft letter dated Dec. 8, 2014. Mr. Kinzer seconded the motion. Vote Count 3-0-2.

Ms. Donnelly moved to approve the variance request for Carlton Willard Village, dated August 20, 2014 with specified additional safety measures as outlined in the draft letter dated Dec. 8, 2014. Mr. Kinzer seconded the motion. Vote Count 3-0-2.

Review of School Nurse Policies:

Mr. Kinzer moved to table consideration of the school nurse policies document until the nurse members of the Board of Health, Anita Raj and Sarah Thompson, are present at a Board meeting. Ms. Donnelly seconded the motion. Vote count: 3-0-2.

Board of Health Action Items --- Old and New Business:

Liaison Assignments

Ms. Donnelly attended a training session at the meeting of the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards (MAHB); she said that the course materials and Board of Health Guidebook are now online. Dr. Brunkhorst requested the link; Ms. Porter will provide the BOH login to the site

There was a brief discussion of the forthcoming effort to revise the animal regulations.

Mr. Kinzer reported that he had attended the Financial Planning and Coordinating Committee meeting; he said that Vince Garofalo had provided a detailed comparison of the financial status of Bedford and various other towns. There was a discussion about rationalizing budgetary policies, especially Capital Expenditures. It is at present highly unclear what amounts of local aid funds the State will be providing to towns. The Board noted that funds provided to Bedford for school expense for students from the Hanscom base have been removed from the state budget by the Governor.

Ms. Porter said that she will draft a letter from herself and the Board of Health Co-Chairs to the School Committee and School Superintendent outlining the discussion points and outcome of their meeting about shifting the school nurses from Board of Health oversight to the School Department. It was agreed that the BOH will include the nurses in their budget and include additional hours and services that were recommended by the nursing program evaluator. She is expecting to receive budgetary guidance from the Finance Committee.

Director's Report:

Ms. Porter said that year 2 funding for tick testing has not been made available from the state.

One more flu vaccination clinic has been scheduled.

She prepared for a meeting on December 10, 2014 with Bedford businesses that use, store, and generate chemicals and hazardous materials. Revision of formats for contingency plan submittals to the town will be useful for the Fire Department.

\$5,000 in grant funding was received from Lahey Clinic for mental health training.

Two clinics have been scheduled for vaccination with the new pneumonia vaccine, Prevnar 13. The vaccine is expensive, \$140 per dose.

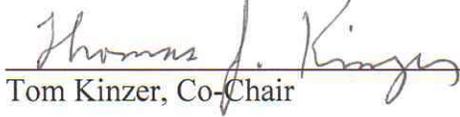
Work under the town's hoarding grant is going strong. Training on hoarding mitigation has been scheduled for clergy and community volunteers. Tax breaks may be available for community service.

Ms. Donnelly moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Kinzer seconded the motion. Vote count: 3-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

The next meetings of the Board will take place on January 5 and February 2, 2015.



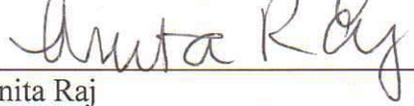
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