

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

July 18, 2012

Town Council Chambers, Administration Building

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. John H. Straus called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

PRESENT: Dr. John H. Straus, Dr. Barbara Beck, Cynthia Brooks, Steven Ward, and Kristel Bennett.

Minute Review: The Board of Health voted to accept the minutes of the June 13, 2012. Dr. Barbara Beck made a motion to accept the minutes of June 13, 2012. Cynthia Brooks seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The Board of Health voted to accept the minutes of the May 2, 2012 meeting. John Straus stepped down as chair to second the motion. All were in favor.

Tobacco Regulation Hearing: Dr. John H. Straus opened the hearing by reading the rules of the hearing and introduced the Board of Health and Steven Ward, the Director of Public Health for the Watertown Health Department. Mr. Ward commented on the proposed changes of the regulation. Testimony was received from the public. Michelle Gallego presented testimony, a youth representative who proposed to raise the age from 18 years to 19 years as other communities have done. Ms. Gallego also stated her support for banning tobacco products from pharmacies. Elizabeth Tanefis presented testimony, from HIRA who proposed the requirement of tobacco retail establishments to provide Tobacco Cessation information. Ms. Tanefis stated that pharmacies were the last health care institution to ban tobacco products. Ms. Tanefis also stated that 39 other communities have increased the tobacco age. Wesley Chin, Watertown's Regional Tobacco Control Coordinator, is in support of display cases and humidors being locked. Mr. Ward presented an email from Town Council President Sideris who is in support of the proposed tobacco regulation amendments. DJ Wilson, Massachusetts Tobacco Control, presented testimony, stating the 39 communities have raised the age limits and that 24 communities have pharmacy bans.

263 Boylston Street: Kristel Bennett informed the Board that the owner's representative, Elizabeth Sahatjian, of 263 Boylston Street was before the Board for an administrative hearing to modify compliance time with the order to correct letter dated June 7, 2012. Mrs. Bennett presented the findings of the Health Department inspection of the dwelling unit. Ms. Sahatjian has presented provided an update to the Board regarding the corrective actions at 263 Boylston Street. After a brief discussion, Cynthia Brooks, made a motion to approve the request to modify compliance time with the order to correct letter dated June 7, 2012. The owner must correct the violations listed in the order to correct letter by August 15, 2012. If the violations remains unabated by August 15, 2012 a court complaint with be filed against the owner of 263 Boylston Street in Waltham District Court for non-compliance with the order letter dated June 7, 2012. Dr. Barbara Beck seconded the motion. All were in favor.

195 Mt Auburn Street: Kristel Bennett informed the Board that the owner of 195 Mt Auburn Street requested a hearing to modify compliance time with the order to correct letter dated May 9, 2012. Mrs. Bennett presented the findings of the Health Department inspection. It was noted the property owner was not present. After a brief discussion, Cynthia Brooks, made a motion to approve the request to modify compliance time with the order to correct letter dated May 9, 2012. The owner must correct the violations listed in the order to correct letter by August 15, 2012. If the violation remains unabated by August 15, 2012 a court complaint may be filed against the owner of 195 Mt Auburn Street in Waltham District Court for non-compliance with the order letter dated May 9, 2012. Dr. Barbara Beck seconded the motion. All were in favor.

New/Old Business: Mr. Steven Ward discussed a proposed regulation, Smoke Free Public Municipal Buildings. Mr. Ward has been working with Peter Wilner in developing a draft regulation. Mr. Wilner discussed set back and school buildings in the draft regulation. Steven Ward provided an update to the Board about Orchard Park Grill and Red Lentil who have received administrative orders from the Health Department.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Board of Health
Minutes July 13, 2012

Next Meeting Date: August 15, 2012

Minutes: Submitted by Steven J. Ward, Director of Public Health