

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

June 22, 2016

Watertown Administration Building, Lower Hearing Room

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. John Straus called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

PRESENT: Dr. John Straus, Chairman, Dr. Barbara Beck, Board Member, Richard Arnold, Board Member, Deborah Rosati, Director of Public Health; Donna Moultrup, Hen and Honeybee Consultant; Guests: D.J. Wilson, Mass. Municipal Association Tobacco Control Director/Public Health Liaison, Natalie Miller, Tobacco Control Program Coordinator

Public Comment: No comments

Hearing on Tobacco Control Requirements

The Board discussed the proposed changes to the existing Regulation Regarding Smoking and the Sale and Use of Tobacco Products and Nicotine Delivery Products which was adopted on January 14, 2015. The proposed changes include updating terminology and language commonly used across the State, including expanding the definition for tobacco products to include products that rely on vaporization and banning smoking and electronic cigarette used in "smoking bars" (cigar bars, hookah bars) and "retail tobacco stores" (tobacconists, vape shops) that have not been in operation before April 1, 2016. The proposed changes also include incorporation of the state's Attorney General Regulations on the sale and distribution of cigarettes, smokeless tobacco products and electronic smoking devices as well as requiring that all e-cigarette solutions be sold in child-resistant packaging.

D.J. Wilson, with input from Natalie Miller, reviewed all of the proposed changes to the regulations and also reviewed potential policy changes for the future including capping the number of tobacco related permits and cigar minimum pricing requirements. He also provided a compilation of the 109 communities that currently ban smoking in smoking bars, and the 68 communities that have banned smoking in retail tobacco stores, which includes Watertown.

The Board voted to adopt the proposed changes with implementation effective upon publication. (Motion – Dr. Beck, Second –R. Arnold, 3-0)

Watertown for All Ages

Guests: Bob Shay, Susan Flint

Mr. Shay presented an overview of the Watertown for All Ages (WAA) effort to enhance the support that Watertown provides to its citizens as they grow older. They are looking at ways to keep people in their houses longer. They researched the Beacon Hill Village model but have found that it is not practical for Watertown and find that Brookline offers a better model. They have looked at the indicators of healthy aging across all ages and have held a number of community forums. WAA wishes to pursue World Health Organization (WHO) recognition as

an Age Friendly Community. Tufts Health Plan has a WHO model and grant funding available that they wish to pursue through the Watertown Community Foundation (WCF). The outline was provided to the Board.

Ms. Flint reviewed the concept to work at all levels of the community to consider it to be age friendly. WAA is hoping to gain buy-in from all agencies, businesses and town departments to support this program. She reviewed the eight interconnected domains of urban life.

Mr. Shay indicated that the process is most important, and a review of all programs in the community is needed, with gaps identified and a needs assessment conducted. Then plans need to be developed to identify and address the gaps, with an ongoing assessment process. For WHO certification, they may apply early on and continue to work on the process. They will work with the new Director of Senior Services; Tufts and Mt. Auburn Hospital are interested in supporting.

To Dr. Straus' inquiry about any detected health concerns, Ms. Flint indicated that depression and isolation are concerns, but the data is not yet clear. WAA currently has a core group of 6 to 8 people and they have the support of WCF and Marshall Home Fund, along with an email list of several hundred people.

Mr. Shay indicated that he is acting as the Tufts Grant project coordinator and is a ¼ to 1/3 time. Boston has a full time person and Brookline works with other staff. Having this situated in town government is the best model.

Mr. Shay and Ms. Flint thanked the Board for their time.

Hearing on the Keeping of Hens Application

157 Common St. – Applicants Joseph Rotella and Aravinda Ananda, friend Meghan O'Connell

Mr. Rotella and Ms. Ananda presented their request to the Board to keep four chickens at 157 Common St. per application received by the Board of Health on May 13, 2016. D. Moultrup had reviewed the initial application and found a number of items to be lacking or not in compliance including lack of evidence of training or knowledge, plot plan showing adjacent properties, lack of signature and date on page 4, the pen not meeting the 10 foot setbacks, indication that coop meets 35' setback from neighboring property, the need for hardware cloth to enclose the bottom of the pen, the need to cover the top of the pen. Ms. Moultrup has been working with the applicants to ensure compliance. There are five abutting properties – 153 Common St. (Cohen), 161 Common St. (Cooper), Robbins Rd. (Peters/Paul), Robbins Rd. (Cameron), and Robbins Rd. (Hooper).

Mr. Rotella indicated that he and Aravinda have attended many of the Northeast Farming Association workshops and have studied information on-line. They also submitted revised plans showing the proper setbacks but were unable to verify the 35' setback from the neighboring property.

D. Rosati read two letters from neighbors:

1. Lorna Cooper from 161 Common St. expressed concerns with potential noise, attraction of rodents, odors from excrement, and applicant lack of experience with breeding hens.

2. Patricia Jackson of 165 Common St. expressed concern with noise and rodents.

The Board reviewed the concerns and felt that all would be adequately addressed or not pose a concern to the neighborhood. D. Moultrup will verify all information during inspections. The applicants should contact Ms. Moultrup to discuss the construction schedule.

Following further discussion, the Board voted to approve the application to allow J. Rotella and A. Ananda to keep four hens at 157 Common St. (Motion-Dr. Beck, Second- Richard Arnold, 3-0) in accordance with the regulations.

Hearing on the Keeping of Hens Application
Isabel Zempel on behalf of Sasaki Associates, 64 Pleasant St.

The Health Department was presented on May 26, 2016 with a request from Sasaki Associates to keep three hens at 64 Pleasant St. for three months during the summer as part of their urban farming programming at Sasaki. The hens will be brought to Sasaki by Isabel Zempel from her property in Marlboro where she keeps 20 hens. She indicated that the hens are quiet at night. The coop is enclosed and sealed at night, the wire pen is open. She indicated that the New England species of hens are fine in the cold but will need a lamp in the coldest winter. There are 10' setbacks from the side and back, and 35' minimum setbacks from the nearest dwellings. She will create a compost to use in the garden.

D. Moultrup reviewed the application and has no concerns about the proposal. She will verify all information during inspections.

Following further discussion, the Board voted to approve the application to allow Isabel Zempel of Sasaki Associates to keep three hens at 64 Pleasant St. for three months during the summer. (Motion-Dr. Beck, Second- Richard Arnold, 3-0) in accordance with the regulations.

Happy Speedy – On-line Sales of Tobacco
Tobacco Control Regulations

D. Rosati indicated that a Cease and Desist order was issued to Happy Speedy at 19 Calvin Road based on the fact that the Board's regulations only allow face to face sales of tobacco and tobacco products. There was an indication that Happy Speedy would be requesting a hearing to discuss this matter thus this was placed on the agenda. No request for a hearing has yet been presented. The board expressed concern that that the website appeared to indicate continuing offers to sell tobacco on-line and requested that Happy Speedy remove this reference from their website.

Next Meeting - The Board determined that there was little availability for a July meeting, and decided to set the August meeting for Wednesday, August 24, 2016.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Deborah M. Rosati, Director of Public Health
Approved: August 24, 2016