



TOWN OF WATERTOWN
Health Department

Deborah M. Rosati, MS, RS
Director of Public Health

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6446
Fax: 617-972-6499
www.watertown-ma.gov

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

November 1, 2016

Watertown Administration Building, Third Floor Conference Room

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

PRESENT: Dr. John Straus, Chairman, Dr. Barbara Beck, Clerk, Richard Arnold, Member, Deborah Rosati, Director of Public Health, Kristel Bennett, Chief Environmental Health Officer, Karen O'Reilly, Animal Control Officer, Donna Moultrup, Hen and Honeybee Consultant

Public Comment: No comments

Minutes

The minutes of the September 28, 2016 meeting were approved with a minor change to the Health Needs Assessment section offered by Dr. Beck. (Motion-Dr. Beck, Second- Richard Arnold, 3-0)

Health Needs Assessment Project

D. Rosati presented another draft of the Assessment Report and indicated that she and Mensimah had participated in a webinar held by the Department of Public Health on data searches and analysis. She indicated that they received clarification that Mass CHIP data is only included if found to be statistically significant. Additional data was added on Mental Health, and data concerning aging is also being looked at in conjunction with the new Director of Senior Services, Anne-Marie Gagnon.

Hearing - 49 Oliver Street – Request for Keeping of Hens

Present: David Meshoulam

David Meshoulam, owner of 49 Oliver St., presented his request for approval to keep four hens on his property at 49 Oliver St. Mr. Meshoulam described his proposed coop and pen area, indicating that the back of the coop is for his entry and the front is for the chickens to enter. Hardware netting is 6 to 12 inches below the ground and also under the wooden floor. Donna Moultrup has reviewed the application and expressed several concerns in a plan review email which have since been addressed. She also noted that applicants should wait for approval before constructing the coop to ensure that it is approved first and that the location is appropriate.

D. Moultrup and Karen O'Reilly will advise Mr. Meshoulam when they are able to conduct an inspection of the property if approved.

Dr. Beck offered a motion to approve the hen application for David Meshoulam to allow the keeping of four hens at 49 Oliver St., seconded by Richard Arnold, and approved 3-0.

Hearing - 90 Marion Road – Request for Keeping of Hens and Variance

Present: Ruth Webb, Anna Bellows

Ruth Webb, owner of 90 Marion Road, and daughter Anna Bellows, presented their request to the Board to keep hens. Ms. Webb indicated that she has an existing coop and two chickens for the last two years. The coop is in non-conformance with setback requirements as it was placed in the shade only one foot away from the property line, and doesn't meet the 5 foot setback for Zoning Requirements or the 10 foot setback per Board of Health regulations. They are proposing to relocate the coop so that it will be 29 feet from the Cocca house instead of the required 35 foot setback. Ms. Webb further explained the layout of her lot and the restrictions with various elevations and also lack of shade that would create a problem for the coop in order to strictly meet the setbacks.

Ms. Webb indicated that they have had the hens for two years, have an insulated area with wood shavings, and a heated water bowl. Hardware cloth was carefully stapled around the coop.

Neighbors Linda and Ted Cocca were present and indicated no objections to the requested variance, placing the coop further away from their property which is located at 84 Marion Road.

Donna Moultrup has reviewed the revised hen application and indicated that the coop will be located 12 feet from the back and sideline property lines. The design of the coop meets the Board's regulations.

Following further discussion, Dr. Beck offered a motion to approve the variance from the required 35 foot setback from the adjacent neighbor's house, allowing 29 feet, and also to approve the hen application for two hens at 90 Marion Road; seconded by Richard Arnold, and approved by a 3 to 0 vote.

Updates

D. Rosati provided an update on Live Well funding proposed through the end of the fiscal year and indicated that an application being submitted to the Watertown Community Foundation for \$2,000 funding towards the coordinator position for Live Well Watertown and the W.A.T.E.R.town Task Force on Substance Use Disorder.

Next Meeting – The next Board of Health meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 18, 2017.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

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

Approved: December 14, 2016