



TOWN OF NORTH READING
Massachusetts

2023 JAN 24 PM 2:02

Board of Health

North Reading Board of Health Meeting Minutes
August 29, 2022
Teleconference/Virtual

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
NORTH READING, MASS.

Members Present: Gary Hunt, Chairman
Karen Martin
Pam Vath

Others Present:

Robert Bracey, Health Agent
Christine Doolin
Maureen Doherty
Mary Samost
Steve O'Leary
Suresh Rao
Michael Gilleberto

7:00 PM

Mr. Gary Hunt opened the meeting.

Minutes

Previous minutes being reviewed, and will be signed and posted to the Board of Health/Health website.

Dunkin 13 Main Street-Follow up:

Gary stated that the board would like to have a discussion with the owner of Dunkin Donuts about what happened and to talk about how to prevent this from happening again. Karen stated that she believes that we should fine them and Pam stated she would like to see what their plan of action is moving forward with this type of incident. Gary asked Bob if there has been any follow up inspection. Bob stated he did go back and there was a small secondary back up. They did close immediately and notified the Board of Health. Dunkin Donuts hired a contractor who scoped the septic system and found some inlet pipes that were not level in the ground. Dunkin Donuts is currently looking for local licensed installer to do the work. Bob stated that he sent out a Board of Health package that did include a corrected action plan along with amended Chapter 2 draft regulations.

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Health Director Report:

Mr. Bracey reported the most recent transmission numbers for the Town of North Reading as of August 25th is at 6.25% positivity rate which is down from last week 7.44% and the State average 7.32%. Regionally we are at the lowest positivity rate at this time. Transmission numbers individuals with one dose is at 90%, individuals with two doses at 82%, individuals with one booster at 53%, individuals with two boosters at 12%. Mr. Bracey reports that we do have Influenza and COVID vaccination clinics scheduled for September 10, 15, 24, October 13 and November 10. All Clinics will be held at the Town Hall Gymnasium. Saturdays from 10-4pm and Thursdays from 4-6pm. We still have the regional testing site at Shriners in Wilmington and we are still trying to work with Stop & Shop and bring a local Kiosk to Town.

Public Health Nurse Report:

Pam Vath reported that there has been only one patient from the nursing home who developed COVID but it was during his time out of the building. Pam reports that the patient did not return to the nursing home during the first few days of a positivity of COVID. Pam reported that from July and August we have had 135 COVID positive. We have had 14 patients who developed Lyme disease, 5 patients develop Campylobacteriosis, 1 patient with salmonella, 52 patients with Influenza, 5 patients with TB and 1 patient with Vibrio.

Mr. O'Leary asked how North Reading is with test kits? Mr. Bracey stated we received a shipment of about 5-10 thousand test kits, we have been distributing them at the counters at town hall and have given some to the senior center. Mr. Bracey stated that we do have the free testing facility for our residents at the Shriners Auditorium Monday through Saturday. Mr. O'Leary asked about the new booster and if that is going to be available and what else will be administered at the clinics coming up. Mr. Bracey stated right now we will have the influenza vaccine and boosters for ages 3 and up. If there is any additional information that comes out from the CDC or FDA regarding the new booster shot we are sure that the agency we are working with will be able to accommodate the residents. Mr. O'Leary asked about the school reporting to the Board of Health. Mr. Bracey stated that we met with a candidate for the position of Public Health Nurse and the interview went very well. Mr. Bracey stated that he hopes that this will be a viable candidate for us to hire and moving forward our board member Pam Vath will be able to work with the new nurse and the school nurses into the fall and work on improving lines of communications.

Health Department PHN Positon: Human Resources set up a second interview with the candidate and Pam Vath and if things go well we will make an offer. Mr. Bracey stated that he hopes that Pam Vath will be able to stay on for a month or two to help train.

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Town of North Reading Board of Health Rules and Regulations

Mr. Bracey stated that he drafted up some regulations under Chapter 2, Sub section 2.2006 through 2.2009 for the Board's review.

Mr. Hunt asked the Board members to take a look at the drafted regulations and give their edits to Mr. Bracey and the Board will vote on the new regulations at the next meeting.

Discussion about who to contact in case of an emergency during off hours. Mr. Hunt asked about adding to the regulations under 2.2007 to contact the North Reading Police Department. Mary Samost suggested adding during business hours call the Health Agent and off hours contact Police Department.

126 Main Street Condominium Association

Mr. Bracey stated that the 126 Main Street Condominium situation is something that has been going on for two years. This was an issue that the Fire Department had revealed an illegal dwelling unit, there was a junk yard/salvage yard in the back and then there was the issue from some of the business working with hazardous materials that either had floor drains that were tied into the septic system or didn't have floor drains at all. The first two matters were resolved within the first few months. The floor drain issue is ongoing and we met in court in June with the building commissioner. The Clerk Magistrate and Judge put some dates into effect for the Condominium Association to meet, one of them being that they submit engineered plans to the Board of Health at the end of July. That date passed and we did not get any plans. The communication with the Condominium Association was still on going and as of last week they have hired an engineer and septic installer and hopefully by the weekend this issue will be resolved and we can dismiss it out of court.

Cowabunga's

This was a matter that was brought to our attention by the Fire Department and Building Commissioner. Cowabunga's is working to put in a small concession stand to serve food in their facility. They have been working with the representatives at Stop and Shop because they own the plaza and they have been working with the Health Department and Building Department for over a year now. What happened a couple of weekends ago, a resident that was there over the weekend felt that the facility was over crowded. The Fire Department got there and they noticed it was overcrowded and they were doing construction work while all the folks were in the facility. Mr. Bracey stated that he and the Building Commissioner went down to Cowabunga's and it was deemed that they started all this construction work without any appropriate building permits. Our concern at the point was an air quality issue. In our discussions with the owners and the general contractor we had referred them to an agency at the State Air Quality Division and OSHA to properly handle and enforce these regulations while the Health Department would help oversee it. The facility has been closed by the Building Department until a Best Practice

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Management plan was submitted to the state for approval. They have now submitted a plan that was approved by the State but they will remain closed until all the construction work is completed. Once they are finished they will request an inspection from the Health Department.

Theresa's Prime Steakhouse/Grill

The Health Department was notified by the Fire Department about a small exterior fire. This fire happened out by the back loading dock. The issue for us was the smoke damage which required the owner to bring in service companies to properly clean and disinfect all the affected areas. We were able to work with them and get the upstairs open by late Friday afternoon. The downstairs should be ready to open the following day. They did a very good job getting the restaurant back to the way it should be due to an unforeseen situation. All food, open products and paper product have been discarded.


Next Board of Health Meeting is to be scheduled for October 6, at 7:00 PM.

Gary Hunt motioned *to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm.*

Motion seconded by Karen Martin

All members voted unanimously in favor

DocuSigned by:


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Gary Hunt

DocuSigned by:


6A9AF14FEB41408
Pamela Vath

DocuSigned by:


1920A173D476497
Karen Martin

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