



## BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

June 28, 2016 – 6:30 PM

Rockport Town Hall Annex

Present: Board members Dr. Sydney Wedmore - Chair, Dr. Russell Sandfield, Dr. Sydney Jimenez, Dr. Bruce Cohen, Health Agent Leslie Whelan, Assistant Town Administrator Mitchell Vieira, Food Inspector Laura Osmond, Public Health Nurse Regina (Jean) Ghidella, and Administrative Assistant Marianne Peters.

6:30 p.m: Chairman Wedmore called the meeting called to order.

### COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

Tom Mikus/73 Marmion of the Green Committee Task Force spoke briefly about health effects of certain color of LED street lighting; asked the Board if they would consider and support the proper choices of the lighting going forward. Dr. Wedmore asked Mr. Mikus to keep us apprised.

### PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE, REGINA GHIDELLA – QUARTERLY REPORT

Jean Ghidella updated the board on the spring Diaper Drive (successful) and the May 6<sup>th</sup> measles outbreak (an infected tourist from Europe visited 3 shops on Bearskin Neck); explained how the Town gets notification from the State on an infectious disease (a call from the epidemiologist at Mass Dept. of Public Health to either Public Health Nurse or back-up Administrative Assistant Marianne Peters). Stated that the process went well; will work with Administrative Assistant Marianne Peters to establish and document a formal reporting protocol for future outbreaks/events.

### LOBSTER POOL - SEATING CAPACITY:

Health Agent showed letter written to Lobster Pool about excessive amount of tables and stated that the permits are limited to 75 seats. Discussion about seating capacity as relates to septic capacity (tight tank). Dr. Wedmore questioned why additional tables should be prohibited from being used at the establishment; particularly given that it's a tight tank; asked if a larger tight tank and that it's getting pumped weekly would allow additional seating. Health Agent believes that Title 5 regulations typically do not allow so but an option for the owners would be to formally request/write to the Rockport Board of Health and the Mass. DEP to say it's 'manifestly unjust' to limit to 75. Brad Atkinson said that they currently have 10 tables in and 20 out and stated that the numbers of diners are the same as before they purchased the restaurant. Abutters suggested that the amount of cars indicates that the restaurant may be going above capacity; Dr. Sandfield responded that artists, divers, hikers, and walkers frequent the waterside park along the area and always have. The Board suggested the owners to devise a plan to ensure no excess diners.

### 4 SEAVIEW STREET –TIGHT TANK PLAN – BURLEY ENGINEERING:

Property's septic system (tight tank and leach pit; partially on a neighbor's property) failed Title 5 Inspection in June 2015; they were ordered in June 2015 to remediate by September 1, 2015; they had not and thus were ordered to vacate property in September 2015. Engineer Randy Burley expressed the site constrictions and difficulties including granite and that blasting would be needed. Title 5 Regulations call for a minimum of a 2000 gallon tight tank to be used; engineer asked for variance to install a smaller (1000 gallon) tank instead because of the physical constraints of the property. Board voted to approve 1000 gallon tight tank rather than 2000 minimum for property.

#### CAPE ANN MASS IN MOTION – STEVE WINSLOW:

Steve Winslow (Gloucester Board of Health/also serves on Mass in Motion Committee) presented the program and its benefits to the Board. Mass in Motion Program is funded in part by the Department of Public Health; currently 60 communities are actively benefitting from ways of improving their environments/towns/cities by installing sidewalks, making accessibility more available to all residents, etc. (one program is “Complete Streets” whereby all sidewalks are connected in the Town or installed where there are none, etc.) and this in turn promotes a healthier lifestyle, etc. The Board expressed interest in participating; Health Agent to become involved.

#### TRAIN IDLING – MBTA RESPONSE:

Continued discussion about train idling complaints. Agent found that the trains have to idle one hour each morning (between the hours of 4:00 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.) Dr. Cohen discussed not only the noise related to the idling but also mentioned air pollution and asked Agent what type of noise and pollution standards the MBTA has in place. Dr. Wedmore suggested that the trains could move more along the track down by Loop Pond or in a less dense neighborhood. Dr. Cohen suggested that the information about train idling also be put on the website so that residents would know. Agent pointed out that if it’s sunny and warm outside, the trains will not/do not idle.

#### ENDORSEMENT SOUGHT FOR BALLOT INITIATIVE TO REDUCE SALMONELLA RISK FROM FACTORY EGGS: “AN ACT TO PREVENT CRUELTY TO FARM ANIMALS”:

Continuation of discussion from May about subject of cruelty to animals with respect to a request from *Citizens for Farm Animals* to support a ballot initiative (stating that there’s a high salmonella risk with eggs from chickens raised in factory-like settings) that they are seeking from boards of health. Board asked Agent to determine/report on the economic impact the passing of the Act may have. Dr. Cohen asked Agent to find out/report on how many Boards of Health have approved. The Board chose to comment only at this time on the Act but not endorse as yet.

#### SEPTIC SYSTEM COVERS REGULATION AND RECENT TITLE 5 INSPECTION REPORT FOR 47 PENZANCE ROAD:

Title 5 Regulations for septic covers call for medium-duty weight and to be childproof; Agent stated that it may be expensive to retrofit the non-compliant septic system covers. The Board stated that the cost is not too expensive and could potentially save a life. Board would like to see the covers be medium-duty and childproof.

#### HEALTH AGENT REPORT:

Agent Leslie Whelan updated the board on:

Sandy Bay Estates: \$4,000 in fees/fines are now unpaid.

Chicken Coop Complaint: Resident’s neighbor’s chicken coop is 20-30 feet from her bedroom. Agent stated that everything on the property meets with zoning requirements and stated that the Board could do something to address the noise aspect only. Dr. Wedmore stated that the bylaws would need to be changed to avoid things like this. Agent was directed to make a visit to speak with offender.

Emergency Preparedness: Erin Kirchner covers for our Health Agent and will be part of a mutual aid agreement.

School Inspection: Will be addressed before school starts. Dr. Wedmore asked about lead testing in the school’s drinking water; Agent to check with Chris Martin of the Water Treatment Plant and inquire about the water bubblers.

#### FOOD INSPECTOR REPORT:

Food Inspector Laura Osmond updated the Board on:

New Restaurants Progress: Rockport Creperie set to open soon. Feather & Wedge has hit snags and delayed a bit.

Lobster Pool Active Diner Counts: Site visit last Saturday night/July 23<sup>rd</sup> at peak time and everything was running smoothly; no issues.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT UPDATE:**

Discussed/working with DPW and Food Inspector in notifying FOG non-compliant establishments that their 2017 permits may not be renewed until grease traps installed/upgraded. Infectious Disease Session with Dr. DeMaria organized for 7/16 at High School; invitations to several dozen boards of health, public health nurses, media, etc. Applying for grant monies from Rockport Rotary for AEDs with Pelican Cases for the 4 manned beaches. Working on protocol/standard procedures for reporting infectious diseases. Working on dog waste and dog licensing efforts (awareness, signs, etc.) and anti-idling campaign to raise awareness.

**REVIEW MINUTES OF MAY 17, 2016 MEETING:**

Minutes accepted with changes noted.

Dr. Wedmore recommended a motion be made to approve minutes; Dr. Jimenez moved to approve minutes with corrections as noted; Dr. Cohen seconded, and it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes with noted corrections.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

July 26, 2016 – 6:30 p.m.

**AGENDA PREP MEETING DATE:**

Agenda Prep Meeting - August 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 with Dr. Cohen.

**ADJOURN:**

Dr. Wedmore recommended a motion be made to adjourn meeting; Dr. Sandfield moved to adjourn, Dr. Jimenez seconded, and it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.