

BRAINTREE BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES

January 15, 2009

IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Philip Nedelman, Chairman
Dr. Mark Samuelson, Vice Chairman
Paula Dowd, Clerk

ALSO PRESENT: Marybeth McGrath, Director of ML & I

Dr. Nedelman called the meeting to order at 7:15pm.

MINUTES:

Motion By: Mrs. Dowd to approve the minutes of November 6, 2008.
Second By: Dr. Nedelman

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Hampton Inn-Request for Variance of Lifeguard Provision

Ms. McGrath advised the Board that this is a renewal of the request for variance of the lifeguard for the Hampton Inn.

Ms. McGrath further advised the Board of the new federal regulation that became effective on December 19, 2008, which requires that each public and semi-public pool and special purpose pool have a specific type of drain cover installed on pool and spa drains to prevent entrapment. The Hampton Inn has met the requirements of the new federal law as of this date.

Motion By: Dr. Samuelson to approve the variance request.
Second By: Paula Dowd
Unanimously Voted

2. Proposed Board of Health Resolution-Planning for a Healthier Future through the Built Environment and Community Design (received from Mayor Sullivan).

Dr. Nedelman advised that the Board discussed this topic extensively during the Health & Wellness Advisory Committee meeting held at 6:00pm on January 15, 2009, which is chaired by Tom Corcoran.

Ms. McGrath advised the Board that there is a bit more involved with the Board of Health and this topic. It involves building, zoning, and land, which includes the Department of Municipal Licenses and Inspections, the Planning Department and others.

Ms. McGrath asked if this resolution is something that the Board of Health is generally interested in because if that is the case then outreach with the Zoning Board, the Planning Board, and the Conservation Commission would be necessary.

Ms. McGrath advised the Board that she can compose the resolution for the Board's consideration and endorsement. Further, the Board of Health has the power to enact a resolution, and this proposed resolution documentation was forwarded from Mayor Sullivan to the Board for review.

Mrs. Dowd asked how exactly this type of a resolution would work. How would this information get out to the community?

Dr. Samuelson read from the proposed documentation which advised of sidewalk access for physical activity. So, he suggested that if a resolution was endorsed by the Board, then this information would also go to the Town department that oversees sidewalks.

Ms. McGrath further advised that this would be the type of information that could be made available on the department and Health and Wellness Advisory Board websites, as well as possibly the Department of Recreation and Events.

Mrs. Dowd expressed a concern that such a resolution may give residents the impression that if the sidewalks need repair that they should have good sidewalks.

Dr. Samuelson advised the Board that it is a resolution that pushes it out from the Board of Health to other departments that these are important things to think about and that maybe bike paths, sidewalks, etc. should be developed.

Ms. McGrath advised that if the Board was interested in pursuing this proposed resolution, then she would first start by contacting Carolyn Murray to see what the feasibility of creating such a resolution would be, and then reach out to the building division, the planning department, to see if they have any input and/or comments.

Dr. Samuelson advised that such a resolution would be to endorse building in the environment for the future. It is the concept, for example of building communities closer to shopping centers to promote walking and physical exercise. The Board would only be endorsing that the town look at these aspects collectively and proactively and planning because otherwise it is not going to happen, and quite frankly other Towns will be doing it.

The Board advised that they have no objection to Ms. McGrath looking into such a resolution.

Dr. Samuelson advised that he hopes that other committees would embrace something like this.

Ms. McGrath advised that since it appears that the Mayor is interested in this that hopefully with his assistance that will help to make it happen.

Motion By: Paula Dowd to support and endorse Ms. McGrath
begin looking into the feasibility of the proposed resolution.
Second By: Dr. Samuelson
Unanimously Voted

3. Shape Up Somerville program (received from Mayor Sullivan)

Dr. Nedelman advised that the Board with the committee members discussed this topic during the Health & Wellness Advisory Committee meeting held at 6:00pm on January 15, 2009.

INFORMATIONAL:

4. SSBOHC-Nursing Home Compliance Inspections

Dr. Nedelman advised the Board that four nursing homes were inspected by the South Shore Boards of Health Collaborative-Tobacco Control Program and all were found in compliance. Ms. McGrath advised the Board that the only nursing home establishment that has an approved smoking room for residents is Royal Rehabilitation (formerly known as Braintree Rehabilitation and Nursing Home).

5. 2008 Flu Clinic update

Ms. McGrath advised the Board that the department provided over 1300 flu vaccines to Braintree residents. The large flu clinic was held in the Town Hall auditorium in November. Shortly after that clinic renovation began on the auditorium, so clinics were held at the high school, COA and 90 Pond Street, in addition to all of the senior housing complexes.

Ms. McGrath advised that hopefully the future clinics can resume in the Town Hall auditorium because residents are very familiar with and prefer this location.

6. Future Board of Health Meeting schedule

MATTERS BY THE BOARD:

Ms. McGrath provided the Board with the 2008 annual Norfolk County Mosquito Control Project report for mosquito control activities conducted in Braintree from January 1-December 31, 2008 for their review and general discussion.

Motion By: Mrs. Dowd to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm.
Second By: Dr. Samuelson