

## DEDHAM BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

July 11, 2019

### IN ATTENDANCE:

Leanne Jasset, B.S.P., RPH Chairperson  
Kathy Reda, RN., BSN Vice Chairperson  
Mary Ellard, RN., Member  
Leontia Flanagan, Assistant Health Director  
Jessica Tracy, Public Health Nurse  
Fior Griffin, Administrative Assistant

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Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM

### **6:00 Open Discussion**

1. No one in the audience, no open discussion needed.

### **6:04 Board Meeting Minutes Accepted**

1. Motion made by Kathy Reda to accept the June 13, 2019 board meeting minutes as amended, removing item #10, regarding the Manor.
2. Minutes accepted.

### **6:05 Drug Coalition presentation by Kristina King**

The purpose of the presentation is to gain insight and feedback from the Board before the implementation of changes to the Coalition's structure.

The Coalition was formed by the Selectmen in 2014 as a response to an uptick in overdose deaths, in the Town of Dedham. It aimed to provide support and resources to members of the community who are either struggling with addiction or know someone struggling with addiction. It has been very successful. It has started initiatives such as:

1. Ensuring first responders carry Narcan
2. Implementing overdose aftercare visits by public health nurse, police and Norfolk county DA's office
3. Educating the community on the public health effects of marijuana legalization
4. Providing resources at community events such as Flag Day and Dedham Day
5. Working with Learn to Cope to hold weekly meetings at the Mother Brook Art Center.

In August 2018, the Coalition was awarded the Drug Free Communities Grant. Public Health Nurse, Jessica Tracy, was instrumental in applying and securing the \$1 Million grant. The purpose of the grant is to help increase the community collaboration around prevention and reduce substance abuse among Dedham youth. \$625,000 will be available over the first 5 years with the possibility of continued funding for years 6-10.

Since receiving the grant, the Coalition has hired a Program Director, Kristina King, and a part time Program Coordinator, Cassandra Bigness. The Coalition has been outreaching to Key stakeholders such as Faith based groups, the Youth Commission, the police department, schools, etc. They held a youth

vaping forum which was an opportunity for the youth to give their perspective on youth cigarette use and vaping.

The new grant allows for a broader focus on youth, prevention and school involvement. The Coalition would like to bring as many stakeholders to the table as possible (Board of Selectmen, Board of Health, School Committee and PTOs). They would like the members of the community to be allowed an increased leadership role. They want to create a formalized oversight mechanism for decision making. The proposed Organizational Chart is as follows:

1. Leadership Team
  - a. Chair (Elections in August)
  - b. Vice Chair (Elections in August)
  - c. Clerk (Elections in August)
  - d. Action Team Heads
  - e. Appointed Key Stakeholders
2. Drug Free Communities Staff
  - a. Program Director – Kristina King
  - b. Program Coordinator – Cassandra Bigness
  - c. Public Health Nurse – Jessica Tracy
3. Action Teams
  - a. Youth Action Team – Comprised of high school and possible middle school youth
  - b. Parent Action Team – Focus on parent education
  - c. Data & Evaluation Team – Will collect and summarize data on a regular basis
  - d. Promotions & Marketing Team – Will advertise for events
  - e. Harm Reduction & Recovery Team – Provide treatment and recovery resources to community members

The goals of the Coalition is to Train Coalition members in Strategic Prevention Framework, which is an evidence-based framework for addressing substance use issues in the community. They also want to increase membership and youth participation and decrease alcohol and marijuana use among Dedham students. The Coalition is focused on decreasing the use of the following three drugs among Dedham youth:

1. Alcohol
2. Marijuana
3. E-Cigarettes – Vaping

The MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey is a bi-annual survey of different health behaviors of middle school and high school students. The results are then compared to other communities in the area and against national averages. The reason the Coalition has chosen to tackle these drugs is because of the results of the latest MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey. The survey showed that 35% of Dedham high schoolers (DHS) currently use alcohol, which is higher than the regional rate of 32%. 56% of DHS students do not think there is great harm in having one or two drinks of alcohol **every day**, and 42% of 12<sup>th</sup> graders report binge drinking in the past 30 days of taking the survey. Program Director, King, showed the Board a line graph with trends showing alcohol use for youth on a decline and the Coalition would like to help continue that trend.

The use rate of marijuana was also higher than the regional rates (23% vs. 19%). 83% of DHS students do not think there is great harm in trying marijuana and the 30-day use rate jumped from 21% in 11<sup>th</sup> grade to 46% in 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The trend for marijuana use was declining but has slightly increased since 2016. Ms. King believes the increased use may be linked with the legalization of marijuana, but further research is needed to determine whether this is the case. Legalization has led people to think that marijuana is not harmful.

Lastly, in response to a national trend showing increased use, the Coalition will also focus on E-cigarette use (vaping). In 2016, 11% of DHS students reported currently vaping. The national trend shows that the percentage of use will grow significantly over the next few years. Youth are reporting that it is easy to hide vaping and that it happens in bathrooms and school locker rooms. The line graph shows conventional cigarette smoking trending down but vaping on the rise.

The Drug Coalition is asking the Board to review and provide feedback on the bylaws and proposed changes to the Coalition structure. They are looking for feedback within a couple of weeks because they plan to hold elections in August. Program Director King would like a member from the Board of Health to serve on one of the Leadership teams. They will be having quarterly stakeholder meetings in September. The Leadership team will meet quarterly and the Action teams will meet more frequently.

Board Member Mary Ellard asked Ms. King about the Youth Vaping Forum that they recently had for College Bound at Regis College. Ms. King said that the Forum was well attended. There were 25 youth in attendance and the feedback was very positive.

Chairperson Leanne Jasset asked about the meeting times for the Drug Coalition going forward. At one point they were meeting in the morning and then again in the afternoon on the same day. Will that be the schedule going forward? Mrs. Jasset felt that having the 2 different meeting times created a disconnect and that it would be better to find a single time that worked for most people. Mr. King replied that she does not intend to continue the double meetings in a day. She agrees that it would be best to have the Leadership Teams meet together at one appointed time.

Vice Chairperson Kathy Reda suggested having the meetings in the evening to get as much parent and youth involvement as possible. She also feels that increasing the community networking associated with the Coalition is key. She strongly believes that the legalization of marijuana has led to the increase in usage by youths. She feels that the legalization has created a perception that marijuana is not harmful.

Mary Ellard suggests the Drug Coalition try to get some time on the local cable network to educate the community to the harmful effects of these drugs. Kathy Reda also thought writing an article for the Dedham times would be a great educational tool. It could be a "Drug Coalition Youth Corner – Were you aware...?"

The Board thanked Ms. King for her information and work with the Coalition and will email her any feedback that they have.

### **6:30 Amendments for the Keeping of Domestic Animals**

After reviewing the suggestions from the Public Hearing on June 13, 2019, the Board feels that the main issue that needs to be addressed is removing the lot size requirement from the regulations. The lot size of the property will no longer, on its own, be a deciding factor in granting a permit to keep domestic animals. The Board will review all applications that require a variance, on a case by case variance. Kathy Reda agrees that the lot size requirement should be excluded from the regulations. She notes that unless you live in precinct 1, most houses don't have .25 acres of land. That would make the regulation unfair because many people wouldn't qualify and would have to seek a variance. She also noted that many other towns do not have the .25-acre requirement to own and raise chickens. Board member Mary Ellard agrees that the lot size requirement as it is currently stated in the regulations should be removed. She would also like typography of layout of the person's land to be considered when deciding if a permit shall be granted.

The other issue discussed at the Public Hearing was clarification of the permitting process. The process will be as follows:

1. The initial application, after clearance from Building inspector and Conservation will be submitted to the Health Department.
2. The applicant will then send notice to abutters that they have applied for a Keeping of Domestic Animals permit. The notice must be sent either certified mail or certificate of mailing.
3. 30 days after notice to abutters has been sent out, if there are no objections and if the applicant meets all the requirements, then the Health Agent may issue the permit without going before the Board for a hearing.
4. The Board will hold a hearing on the application only if a variance is being sought or if there is an objection from an abutter filed in writing. The variance request or objection from abutter must be made within 30 days of the initial application being submitted.
5. The applicant shall serve a copy of the hearing notice to all abutters by certified mail or certificate of mailing, 7 days prior to any hearing.
6. Fee scheduled shall be determined by the Board of Health.
7. A hearing for a variance can be scheduled on the following months Board Meeting Agenda, subject to no objections from Abutters.

Other suggested changes are:

1. Change "Animal Inspector" to "Agent of the Board"
2. Remove the wording "Public Health Department" and replace with "Department"
3. Section 7.4, section A is repeated in section D & E. Section D & E to be deleted.
4. Section 7.6, Part D to be removed.
5. All variances shall go before the Board for approval.
6. Section 7.16, change "public hearing" to "Board meeting".

Motion made by Kathy Reda to accept the Amendments for the Keeping of Domestic Animals as amended. The changes will be effective August 1, 2019. Mary 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion accepted at 6:58 pm.

#### **7:00 Chicken Permit - 91 Hillside Rd**

The permit for the Keeping of Domestic Animals at 91 Hillside Rd has been granted. Health agents have been called out on three different occasions for complaints of odor at 91 Hillside Rd. Assistant Director Lee Flanagan, Health Nurse Jessica Tracy and Animal Control Officer Jason Tracy each responded to the complaints. On each occasion, there was no odor detected.

No changes are to be made to the current permit. Kathy Reda motions to keep the permit as it currently stands and is in effect. Mary Ellard seconds the motion. Motion accepted.

#### **7:18 Old Business**

1. P.F. Chang's – An anonymous call came in on 6/20/19 regarding pictures that had been circulating about P.F.Chang's. The pictures showed what appeared to be black mold and roaches at the restaurant. Inspector Kris McMillon went out to investigate. It turned out to be a broken/dismantled ice machine. Assistant Director Flanagan ordered the soda machine shut down. When she went out to P.F. Chang's to perform a full inspection, she discovered it was a dismantled soda machine. Lee identified the "black mold" as the black insulated foam that was around the bottom of the soda machine that was starting to come apart. The soda machine was 10 yrs old, so she had them replace it instead of trying to repair it. Assistant Director Flanagan said that the company was working hard towards compliance. An extermination company is coming in weekly; all violations

are being corrected and the Operations Manager is being retrained to ensure that the standards of cleanliness are maintained throughout the organization.

**7:26 New Business**

1. 36 Country Club Rd. Variance.

- f. The septic system failed. They would like to install a new system. They are looking for a waiver/variance from regular perc test because they encountered too much ledge on the property. Under Title V, they must come before the Board to seek a variance. Paul Brogna wrote a letter to the Board recommending that they approve the waiver. A conventional Perc test could not be performed because the suitable layer was already saturated.
- g. Member Mary Ellard motions to accept the use of a comparative sieve analysis, instead of a conventional Perc test. Motion seconded by Kathy Reda. Motion accepted.

**7:35 Director's Report**

- 1. Small Batches was given their permit 6/10/19. They will be having a soft open within the week.
- 2. All Camps, except Behn camp, have been inspected and permits issued. Behn camp does not start until the first week of August.
- 3. Fire @ 99 Oakdale Ave. The Health department has been fielding complaints regarding the trash at that location. DPW has been called to remove the burnt trash barrels. The cause of the fire is still unknown.
- 4. There are 3 new chicken applications waiting for approval. The Health department is waiting for the Amendments for the Keeping of Domestic Animals regulations to be completed before any new permits are issued. The abutters have been notified and no objections have been received.

No Executive Session  
Motion to adjourn @ 7:55pm

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

8/8/19