

Bernadette Chirokas, Chair
Leanne Jasset, Vice-Chair
Emma Reidy, Member

Kylee Foley, Director
Mavis Stephany Lopez Silva,
Office Manager



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TOWN OF DEDHAM BOARD OF HEALTH

Meeting Minutes Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Location: HYBRID MEETING (Town Hall, 450 Washington Street, Room 304 and via Zoom)

The following Board of Health Members were present:

Bernadette Chirokas, Chair
Leanne Jasset, Vice-Chair
Emma Reidy, Member

The following staff were present:

Kylee Foley, Health Director
Leontia Flanagan, Assistant Health Director
Mavis Stephany Lopez Silva, Office Manager

Meeting is called to order Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at 5:33 PM

Public Comment: No public was present for comment in person or remotely at the beginning of the meeting.

Discussion & Vote: 08/13/2024 Meeting Minutes: Member Emma Reidy noted a misspelling of her last name in the meeting minutes. Vice Chair Leanne Jasset made a motion to accept the minutes with the correction to Emma Reidy's name. Member Emma Reidy seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes with the update.

Discussion (& Possible Vote): Family Dollar: The Health Department has continued to work with Family Dollar to address the establishment's ongoing mice issue. Assistant Health Director Leontia Flanagan conducted inspections of the establishment on the following dates: 08/21/2024, 08/28/2024, 09/04/2024, 09/11/2024, and 09/17/2024. The Board received copies of the inspection reports in their packets. Assistant Director Flanagan stated that while there have been some improvements made to the establishment, there have been several food deliveries, including a bread delivery made today. These deliveries continued although the Board ordered a suspension of all food deliveries at their meeting in August. Additionally, structural issues continue to be observed. Assistant Director Flanagan informed the new manager that all food deliveries must be suspended, and the manager agreed to stop all future deliveries until further notice. As of the 9/11/2024 inspection, an EcoLab pest control operator has been conducting daily inspections and observing 2-3 mice catches per day. The pest control reported noted previously cited and new structural defects that may be contributing to the presence of mice in the establishment. Clutter and debris were observed on the exterior of the establishment. Family Dollar attorney, Jack Siegal was present at the meeting. He stated he was unaware there had been multiple food deliveries to Family Dollar, and that Family Dollar has approximately 40,000 stores and they are experiencing challenges in cancelling the deliveries of standing orders with short notice.

Chair Bernadette Chirokas inquired about the structural issues and the steps that have been taken to rectify these issues. Mr. Siegal stated that while they understand these issues are taking longer than they should, they are struggling to keep up with the scope of work they entail. Vice Chair Leanne Jasset inquired if these issues are present in other stores, as progress has been minimal and there is concern on the timeline as these issues started in April.

Member Emma Reidy requested clarification on their work order process. Mr. Siegal was unsure of the exact steps, however, recognized there needs to be more concerted efforts in the revision process of work tickets.

Chair Chirokas stated the conditions that have allowed these issues did not arise overnight and have been caused by multiple factors, likely from lack of attention to the interior and exterior of the premises. The number of rodents that are being caught is not diminishing and resolving these matters is paramount as the colder weather approaches. Vice Chair Leane Jasset sought clarification on the standard operating procedure that is followed to ensure the cessation of food delivery. Mr. Siegal responded that the standard operating procedure for the cessation of food deliveries is to cease deliveries, however communications can be challenging resulting in some deliveries being made in error. Mr. Seigal requested clarification on what the parameters of accepting food for the purpose of distributing to another store would be. Vice Chair Leanne Jasset stated that the recommendation is to not accept deliveries to the establishment. Refusal of deliveries must be adhered to.

The Board discussed continuing this matter and what the motion for corrective action should entail. The discussion resulted in Vice Chair Leanne Jasset motioning to cease all food delivery including pet food based upon the following contingencies:

1. Resubmission of a corrective action plan to include cleaning schedules, cleaning logs, and timeline to correct outstanding structural deficits that have been identified at this time.
2. No more catches on pest control reports and service to move to weekly.
3. Successful weekly inspections with the Health Department.
4. The submission of standard operating procedures to include refusal of food items for cessation of food deliveries.
5. The removal of unsold food products.

Member Emma Reidy seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously 3-0 to continue this matter.

Update from Health Director

Melty Way: This new restaurant is opening to the public next week.

East Dedham Pizzeria: This restaurant is reopening next week after being closed for almost two years due to issues related to burst pipes.

Household Hazardous Waste Day: The Health Department will be hosting Household Hazardous Waste Day on Saturday, October 12 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Department of Public Works (55 River Street).

Public Clinic: There will be a public flu vaccine clinic for residents on Tuesday, October 8th from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM at the Dedham Middle School Gymnasium (70 Whiting Ave).

Senior Clinic: A 65+ flu vaccine clinic will be held for residents on Thursday, October 10th from 9: 30 AM – 12:30 PM at the American Legion (155 Eastern Ave).

Mosquitoes: Several routine mosquito samples have tested positive for WVN and EEE across the State this summer. During the warmer months (June – October), Mosquito Control Districts conduct weekly testing of mosquito samples to determine the presence of WNV and EEE. Based on these testing results, the State provides recommendations about mosquito prevention efforts. Dedham’s current WNV risk level is moderate, and the Town’s current EEE risk level is low. Based on Dedham’s current risk levels, the State recommends public education about mosquito-prevention practices. Mosquito-prevention education has been added to the Health Department’s ‘Resources’ webpage and has been sent out in notices, including the Board of Health News Corner. There was concern surrounding mosquito spraying in Dedham neighborhoods. Spraying is conducted by Norfolk County and is often based on residential requests. The Town is not notified of spraying routes.

***Old/New Business**

Goal Setting: Director Foley suggested planning for 2025 goal setting at the last Board of Health meeting. One possible goal is to reassess the fee schedule and ensure fees are up to date. Member Emma Reidy inquired if there have ever been any environmental/air quality reports done in the schools, specifically the elementary schools, and what the process would be like to conduct assessments. Director Foley will research to see what partnerships would be needed to facilitate this type of work.

Public Comment: Dedham resident Janet Bourgeois of 40 Hillcrest Ave joined the meeting remotely. Janet expressed concerned about rats in Dedham. She asked what the Town does to help with this issue. Director Foley stated that the Health Department conducts inspections as requested by residents to make observations and work with property owners on an individual basis to address conditions conducive to rodent activity. Additionally, letters are sent to residents in the surrounding neighborhood to educate residents on possible rodent activity.

Dedham resident Douglas Grier of 7 Winter St also joined the meeting remotely. Doug expressed concerns regarding increased rodent activity in his neighborhood. Primarily near the cemetery. Doug inquired if there are Town programs to treat and respond to rat activity, like the mosquito program. Director Foley stated that the Town does have a standard operating procedure for responding to rat activity, however, there isn’t a one-to-one equivalent to the program as the Mosquito District is funded through taxes specific to that program. Director Foley added that the town responds to and treats public areas as necessary.

Vice Chair Jasset moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 PM. This was seconded by Member Emma Reidy. The Board voted unanimously 3-0 to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 PM.

This is to certify that the above is a true and accurate record of the minutes of the Board of Health’s Meeting held on September 17, 2024, which minutes were approved on October 15, 2024.

Bernadette Chirokas – Chair