



Town of Northborough

Board of Health

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Members Present: Glenn French
Dilip Jain
Deirdre O'Connor
Jamie Terry, Board of Health Agent

The Board of Health met on Wednesday, February 11, 2009 in conference room B of the Northborough Town offices. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Glenn French. The minutes for the January meeting were approved as read.

Ms. Terry and the Board discussed the recent peanut butter recall. Ms. Terry reports that she contacted each establishment and found that a majority of them did not carry any of the recalled products. However, Ms. Terry did find that six establishments did carry some of the recalled products (Austin Crackers & Luna Bars) and those items had already been removed from their shelves. Ms. Terry stated that many establishments do have household peanut butter on hand and she has compiled a list of the products currently being used in Town. Ms. Terry reports that she has also been in contact with the nursing homes and indicated that they were aware of the recall and had already removed products that contained peanut butter.

Ms. Terry and the Board discussed Outdoor Wood Burning Boilers (OWB). Ms. Terry stated that as of December 26, 2008, statewide regulations were established by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Ms. Terry went on to explain that the effects on existing OWB's is small, however those with existing OWB's need to be compliant by March, 2009. Ms. Terry informed the Board that she has received a complaint about the outdoor wood boiler at 209 Pleasant Street. Ms. Terry states that the owner, Mr. Webber, was aware of the complaint and called the BOH office before she received the complaint from Mr. Mara. Mr. Webber stated that it was his own fault; human error caused the smoke situation. Ms. Terry completed a site visit and indicated that Mr. Webber has to raise the stack height 17' or move the unit 11' in order to be in compliance with the State Regulations. Ms. Terry informed the Board that Mr. Mara is not happy with this situation and has inquired about more restrictive regulations. Ms. Terry informed him that at this time the Board was not actively pursuing anything at this time and Mr. Mara stated that he disagrees with this and informed her that he would be contacting an attorney for guidance on this matter.

The Board held an informational session for owners/operators of food establishments that voiced their concern over the raise in permit fees, no one attended tonight's session.

Ms. Terry and the Board discussed the letter she received regarding the increase in food establishment fees; this letter was hand delivered by Joseph Mondello of Festive Breads. Ms. Terry states that she responded to each and every establishment that signed the letter and of these establishments – two (2) were new owners as of July 1, 2008, two (2) establishments did not have a change in fees, and at least six (6) of the establishments have been high risk during the time Ms. Terry has been in Town, and nine (9) establishments would have higher fees if permits were done based on seating.

The BOH feels as though this increase in fees is justified as the level of services provided and expectations have increased over the year. Also, it is important to note that the BOH fees have not increased in 10+ years.

Ms. Terry advised the BOH that each individual establishment would like specific and direct notification in the future if they were to make adjustments to the fee schedule. The BOH discussed this request and will consider this as a courtesy to local establishments.

Town Administrator John Coderre stopped in to speak with the Board about this matter. He concurs with the Board of Health that this fee study was done appropriately and thoroughly. He further noted that the fee study has been made available to the public. Mr. Coderre indicated that this was a tremendous amount of work for Ms. Terry and her approach was well thought out, planned and implemented. Mr. Coderre hopes that the establishments in Town appreciate the hard work that was put in to this. Mr. Coderre stated that services have increased since Ms. Terry was hired; there is no question about that.

Ms. Terry and the BOH discussed the proposed well regulations. Ms. Terry informed the BOH that they have been sent back from Town Counsel with a few minor changes and can go into effect if the Board of Health would like to vote to adopt the regulations.

Chairman Glenn French made a motion to adopt the Town of Northborough Well Regulations, Dilip Jain seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. These regulations are effective as of February 12, 2009.

Ms. Terry and the Board discussed recent food inspections, no outstanding issues were reported.

Ms. Terry informed the Board that major improvements have been made at Britney's Cafe since the last BOH meeting & the BOH reviewed the last inspection report.

Ms. Terry informed the Board that JJ O'Rourke's has also made some improvement since the last inspection. Ms. Terry has not had any recent complaints about a smell; however they have since turned the stack on the blower unit located near the front door.

Ms. Terry informed the Board that she has received the first report from the consultant hired by the West Side Grille. The new dish machine has arrived and the staff reports that it has been helpful to have the consultant on site.

Ms. Terry informed the Board that she has not seen anything come in from the consultant that was hired by the Mandarin Pan; she expects to see something by the end of February.

Ms. Terry and the Board discussed the septic system located at 41 Washburn Street. Ms. Terry has not received a timeline from the homeowner as of yet and stated that if she doesn't hear from them soon she plans on setting a timeline for them so they can move forward with installing their new septic system.

The next Board of Health meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah L. Roach