



Town of Northborough

Board of Health

63 Main Street
Northborough, MA 01532-1994
Office (508) 393-5009 Fax (508) 393-3130

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

The Board of Health met on Wednesday, October 14, 2009, in conference room B of the Northborough Town offices. The meeting was called to order at 7PM by Chairman Glenn French. The Board of Health did not vote on the meeting minutes from September.

Ms. Terry informed the Board that the seasonal flu clinic was held on Tuesday, October 13, 2009. Ms. Terry stated that the VNA originally thought that we only received 260 doses, however 273 doses were administered that day and we had to place eleven people on a waiting list. The second clinic is on hold as of right now as we do have not received any additional vaccine. Ms. Terry anticipates receiving more as it becomes available.

Ms. Terry and the Board discussed the H1N1 situation. Ms. Terry informed the Board that she registered as a provider site to receive both the live nasal spray and the intra muscular injections. Ms. Terry informed the Board that clinics will be scheduled once we receive the vaccine and as of right now she is aiming for late November or early December however this is subject to change at any given moment.

Mr. Joe Seely of Tom's Eatin & Drinkin Place appeared before the Board tonight. Mr. Seely read a statement to the Board which he will forward to the Board of Health agent.

Mr. Seely accused the Board of misusing their powers and being drunk with authority. Mr. Seely complained of Ms. Terry throwing out food on numerous occasions and stated that it was his opinion that Ms. Terry can identify problems at the restaurant, not throw food away. Mr. Seely described how Ms. Terry threw away 10 pounds scallops on one of her visits which he deemed unnecessary; Mr. Seely stated that he does not throw food away. Mr. Seely believes the notice of closure was unacceptable. Mr. Seely believes that there were no imminent dangers and the food that is served at his restaurant is prepared and served in a safe and clean environment.

Mr. Seely requested that the Board rescind their order as they have requested egregious tasks that cannot be completed without significant cost to him. Mr. Seely sees this as a public relation snafu in which the consequences are horrible. He has no intentions of

opening under the name Tom's as he just doesn't see how he can do that after this. Mr. Seely advised the Board that he has many decisions that need to be made.

The Board informed Mr. Seely that they would like to see him get back on track, up and running in compliance and operating safely. There is no reason anyone should no any different. The Board is to be used as a resource for all and they are happy that he has worked with them in the past. The Board reiterated that the closure had nothing to do with him not being present at the last Board of Health meeting; there were many violations and they needed help. The Board is trying to do what they have to do and be less punitive as possible. The law is the law and there is no leeway with that. The Board informed Mr. Seely that it was unfortunate that he was not present as they would have liked to speak with him that night. Ms. Terry requested direction from the Board as to how to move forward from today. The Board informed Ms. Terry that the requirements still stand; all violations need to be corrected, the Fire Department had to inspect and approve the ventilation system, and a consultant has to be hired to perform educational services and independent inspections.

Mr. Seely informed the Board that he has to examine all options in light of tonight's favorable meeting. It is his impression that there will be no recovery from this and ill public relations are disastrous.

Mr. Mo Tougas appeared before the Board tonight regarding his outdoor wood boiling burner unit (OWB). Mr. Tougas informed the Board that there is a current grant application from the Dept. of Agriculture which, if chosen, would allow him to upgrade his existing OWB. Mr. Tougas is willing to go through the process and was looking to see if the Board would allow such replacement in the event that he qualifies for this grant. The Board felt as though this was a good idea; Chairman Glenn French made a motion to allow all individuals with existing OWB to upgrade their OWB in the event that they apply and qualify for the grant, Dilip Jain seconded the motion. Ms. Terry and the Board discussed the moratorium that is currently in effect and the Board agreed that they are in favor of continuing the moratorium. Ms. Terry will get the information out to the others in town with existing OWB's as soon as she can; the deadline for applications is Tuesday, November 3, 2009.

Ms. Terry informed the Board that she has been made aware of a couple of E-coli cases in Northbridge, Bellingham & Boston. Ms. Terry informed the Board that there is a possible link to Northboro as all cases have visited Tougas Farm. One individual admitted to not washing his hands after going to the petting zoo. Ms. Terry & Mr. Tougas have had numerous conversations about this and Mr. Tougas informed the Board that he has doubled the signage and that there are eight hand washing stations within 50 feet of the petting zoo.

Ms. Terry informed the Board that Applefest went well this year. Ms. Terry completed all inspections and there were no outstanding issues to report.

Chairman Glenn French made a motion to approve the appointment of Les Boardman as Animal Inspector for the Town of Northborough with an assistant to be named at a later date, Dilip Jain seconded the motion.

Ms. Terry informed the Board that there is a problem with the septic system located at 14 East Main Street. This building is owned by Stu Paskalis of Worcester, MA and is the location of Beezers Ice Cream which is currently closed for the season. On Tuesday, September 29, 2009, Ms. Terry was informed by the Northborough Police Department that the septic system at the above location was discharging to ground surface and observed "running down Route 20". Ms. Terry responded and observed this discharge and the Board viewed photos taken that same day. The Board agreed with Ms. Terry; raw sewerage on the ground has created an imminent health hazard and it needs to be corrected. Ms. Terry will write an order requesting immediate action be taken in replacing this septic system.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Roach

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25PM