



Town of Northborough

Board of Health

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

The Board of Health met on Tuesday, April 10, 2012 in the Selectmen's Meeting Room of the Northborough Town offices. The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM by Deirdre O'Connor. The minutes from the March 13, 2012 meeting will be reviewed at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Ms. Terry and the Board discussed the recent food inspections that were performed - no outstanding issues were reported.

Ms. Terry updated the Board RE: Building a Healthy Northborough which is an initiative supported by the MetroWest Health Foundation in partnership with Mass in Motion, to find concrete ways to create an environment that supports healthy eating habits and physical activity for youth and their families. Ms. Terry informed the Board that the spring newsletter highlighting school-related activities, healthy recipes, and weather-appropriate physical activities was recently distributed.

The New Great Wall of 259 West Main Street appeared before the Board tonight to review the recent audit findings that were submitted to the Board of Health, and to discuss a recent inspection that was performed by Matt Armendo on Saturday, March 17, 2012. Ms. Terry and the Board reviewed the establishment's history dating back to 2010. The Board stated that this is the third time this establishment has been before the Board and that they have essentially earned a failing grade.

Ms. Terry and the Board are especially concerned as critical violations continue to occur and the same violations continue to be shown on subsequent audit reports. Critical violations are those that create or have the potential to create an imminent risk to public health. Ms. Terry expressed concern that it appears as though these critical violations are not being taken seriously. Once critical violations are found it is imperative that corrective action must be taken, if that is not possible a plan of corrective action would be required. Shirley Lin of the New Great Wall informed the Board that they have been trying to hire a professional chef who understands and is able to educate others & organize the walk-in cooler. The Board recognizes the fact that it's hard to find good help; ultimately though the responsibility to meet the Food Code and prepare food safely lies with the owner of the of the restaurant and no one else.

Ms. Terry informed the Board that she discussed this matter with Town Counsel and was advised that continued non-compliance may lead to revocation of the food

permit. Ms. Terry's recommendation to the Board today is temporary closure of the establishment with numerous surprise inspections to follow after the establishment re-opens. Shirley Lin of the New Great Wall would like the Board to consider closing the restaurant for a total of two (2) days which she believes will allow them relearn everything and correct the critical violations that were found.

The Board expressed extreme concern regarding the fact that they do not meet the minimum standards to operate a food establishment and while they do appreciate the fact that they want to do the right thing the evidence doesn't show that they are able to do the right thing. After some lengthy discussion this establishment was found to be in violation of the requirements of Chapter X of the State Sanitary Code, 105 CMR 590.000, including the Food Code. Dr. Jain made a motion to accept Jamie Terry's recommendation ordering an immediate suspension of the permit for a period of seven (7) days beginning on Wednesday, April 11, 2012, as well as requiring this establishment be subject numerous surprise inspections by the health department over a four to six week period following the closure, Deirdre O'Connor seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

The Board of Health is charged with protecting the public's health through the promotion of food safety and stressed that this would be the final opportunity for this establishment to achieve and maintain compliance with the requirements of the Food Code. The Board expects that this closure period will be used to appropriately train all personnel and assure compliance with 105 CMR 590.000. The Board explained that any violations noted during this timeframe would cause the need for the Great Wall to appear before the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting for a revocation hearing. The Board requested that Ms. Terry write a letter to the owner of the restaurant indicating what exactly will be required of them so there is no doubt in anyone's mind as to what is going to happen. Ms. Terry will hand deliver this letter to the establishment Wednesday morning when she posts the closure sign at the establishment.

Ms. Terry and the Board reviewed the proposed changes to the tobacco regulations minus the information from the State. Ms. Terry will revise the draft regulations and make them available to the public with the possibility of holding a public hearing at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM

Respectfully submitted

Sarah Jean