



# TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH BOARD OF HEALTH

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BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Glenn French-Chairman, Deirdre O'Connor, Dilip Jain  
ALSO PRESENT: Stephanie Bacon - Health Agent, Sarah Jean - Administrative Assistant, Millie Milton - C'est La Vie Bistro, Jim Haddadin - Metrowest Daily News.

The Board of Health met on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 in the Selectmen's Meeting Room of the Northborough Town Offices. The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM by Chairman Glenn French.

Chairman Glenn French made a motion to approve the January 12, 2016 meeting minutes as amended. Deirdre O'Connor seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

## 6:15 PM Pet Friendly Restaurant Discussion

Ms. Bacon and the Board reviewed C'est La Vie Bistro's Proposal for a safe, pet friendly environment. Millie Milton, owner of C'est La Vie Bistro stated that her restaurant is French inspired and globally influenced. Similar to other restaurants in Europe, she wanted to allow for dogs inside the restaurant. Ms. Milton submitted a list of procedures to the Board that would be enforced to ensure a safe and clean environment while holding the highest standards of proper food handling and production. Some examples are not allowing dogs in any food preparation areas, stringent cleaning practices, dogs would be required to be leashed and remain with the owners at all times and appropriate signage stating establishment is "dog friendly" to ward off persons who may have allergies or aversions to dogs. Some discussion ensued regarding appropriate entrances for dogs, where there will be no contact with food preparation areas and discussion to hold sufficient insurance coverage.

Ms. Bacon reports that under the food code there is a provision for the Board of Health to deny (unless the animal is a service animal), or accept through a variance process. Ms. Bacon stated that she reached out to Diane Bernazzani of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regarding this proposal. Ms. Bernazzani also forwarded information from the City of Salem Massachusetts showing that they have a variance requirement to allow dogs in outdoor dining areas.

Ms. Milton and the Board reviewed an old floor plan that was submitted to the Building Department. The Board indicated that they would like to see a more current plan showing the areas that could be designated as pet friendly. Ms. Milton stated that she would have more information for them available at the next Board of Health meeting.

There were some mixed feelings on whether or not dogs belonged inside a restaurant and Ms. Milton stated that she too was exploring all options. The members of the Board agreed that they would keep an open mind, do some research of their own and revisit the situation at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

6:35 PM Board discussion on various permits, plans & inspections

Ms. Bacon reported that as-builts have been submitted to the office for 357 Howard Street but does not recommend review or approval until power is made available and they are able test the pump. Ms. Bacon also stated that Mr. Costello noted the Soil Absorption Area was overgrown and is in need of clearing. He also indicated that a Title 5 inspection would be required as some components have been in the ground since 2008.

Ms. Bacon reported that Casa Vallarta located at 45 Belmont Street is looking to arrange for outdoor seating in a patio area section they had used in the past. To not exceed capacity, the owner stated that he would remove thirty five of his indoor seating to the patio area. He intends to make the patio available from May through September. Ms. Bacon checked with the Selectmen's office, who confirmed that an outdoor liquor license is still current. Ms. Bacon stated that she would speak to the Fire Department as well. The Board indicated that there will be no smoking allowed in in the patio area per our local tobacco regulations and stated that they did not have concern allowing this as long as other departments needs are met.

Ms. Bacon reported that Guiseppe's has hired a new chef/kitchen manager, Paul Meszaro, and that she was very pleased with the many positive changes evident at her last inspection. Ms. Bacon stated that the only outstanding issue needing correction, was that the soda gun lines were right above the ice serving area in the bar. Mr. Meszaro stated that Pepsi Co. had to come to change the lines to another area which should be done sometime this week.

6:50 PM Board Discussion on Septic Regulations

Ms. Bacon reported that she has been approached by several people regarding the local septic regulation that is currently in place: Section II Plans and Design Requirements, 13: "For new construction the SAS shall be set back 25 feet from all property lines." Ms. Bacon reports that the state Title 5 regulations call for a 10 foot setback. Ms. Bacon stated that a developer explained to her that the Town of Northborough Zoning Bylaw for zone RC, requires a building width footprint of 100' on

a 20,000 s.f. lot, making it near impossible to install a conforming septic system. The Board discussed taking these situations as a case by case basis, to which Ms. Bacon explained the expressed frustration people had of needing to obtain a variance on a state approved setback. The Board also discussed the option to omit this specific zone from the 25' setback requirement due to size constraints. Ms. Bacon asked what the purpose of the 25' setback was. The Board indicated that it was something that Mr. Costello felt strongly about when the regulations were put in to effect back in 2005 and suggested Ms. Bacon refer back to the minutes to see what the reasoning was. Ms. Bacon indicated that she will do some research and bring it back up for discussion at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

7 PM            Board Discussion on Opioid Abuse / Substance Abuse Coalition

Ms. Bacon and the Board discussed the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (SAPC). The objective of the SAPC is to prevent substance abuse with a focus on opioids, as well as other factors that contribute to the onset of drug use. Ms. Bacon reports that she will be attending a meeting tomorrow morning at Algonquin Regional High School to discuss the Metrowest School Study Results that have just been released to all Superintendents. With permission from Superintendents, the members of the SAPC will review the results, look for contributing factors and pick one focal point to create resources for. The Board discussed substance abuse as well as the growing prescription opioid epidemic. It is reported that diverting medication from a family member to support one's use is on the rise and has led to Pain Management Agreement Contracts between physicians and patients. Dr. Jain will forward a copy of his sample contract to Ms. Bacon for the SAPC to review.

7:30            0 Church Street

Ms. Bacon informed the Board that an outside consultant to review potential restrictive soils and/or wetland resource areas will be hired.

The next Board of Health meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 6PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Jean