

MINUTES
STURBRIDGE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Monday, November 2, 2009 7:00 pm

In Attendance: Linda Cocalis, Bob Audet, and John Degnan. Alyssa Rusiecki, Health Agent.
Meeting called to Order at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES — Minutes were put in abeyance.

H1N1 UPDATE – Linda relates her discussion with Joan Dusoe, subcontract nurse from Preventative Health Services of Harrington Hospital, regarding H1N1 vaccinations in accordance with target groups as identified by CDC and DPH. Even though the Board of Health has a current contract with Harrington, the Board was presented with a separate contract from Harrington Hospital for the H1N1 clinics. Significant discussion ensued, and the Board decided to refer the contract to Town Counsel for review. Ms. Cocalis will ask interim town administrator Mike Racicot to forward the contract to the Town Counsel for review on behalf of the Board of Health. In the interim, planning and clinics will continue to take place. Joan Dusoe reported to Ms. Cocalis that the first allotment of H1N1 doses for Sturbridge is 60, (sixty). Due to the significantly limited amount, the Board decided to conduct a mini-clinic for children in the target age group, who have already submitted parental consent forms to the School Department; the Board of Health will work with School Nurse Lisa Meniuer.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT – (Food & Accommodations) Mr. Woolhouse reports on the following issues: Sash's at the NE Truck Stop is adding a menu item; a new Subway restaurant has re-located on Main Street; a motel room is closed at Green Acres; Enrico's has made corrections for code compliance issues; Sam's Convenience Store had out of date products; George's Pizza was selling Frozen dessert without a permit and necessary testing, they were given a cease and desist on this product; and other permitted establishments must submit monthly lab testing on bacteria counts for frozen dessert machines.

Both Ron and Alyssa have met with owners of the proposed new restaurant at the old Rom's location, "Playa de Carmen," but the owners have yet to provide an application for a new food establishment. The owners were instructed not to make any significant changes prior to submitting the required application to the Board of Health for review.

With regard to the H1N1 concerns, Ron met with the principal and staff at the Burgess Elementary school cafeteria to work on a program of periodically sanitizing the tables throughout the day. Also, when the PTA utilizes the cafeteria for food preparation for a fund raiser, there will be a staff-person with ServeSafe certification to follow-up with sanitation procedures.

AGENT'S REPORT — (Health Agent's Report) Ms. Rusiecki states she has received a letter of thanks via email from one of the complainants of the manure nuisance issue at 207 Podunk Rd. There have been follow-up inspections and/or correspondence at the following housing issues: 100 Heritage Green, (corrected); 19 Main St. (pending); and Paradise Ln (continuing with Tri-Valley Senior Services and Reas Foundation). Septic construction inspections included: 83 Leadmine Ln.; 4 Old Stagecoach Rd.; 3 Falls Rd.; 60 So. Shore Dr.; and 24 Allen Rd. The new food establishment review has been completed for the new "Sals" pizza on Main Street. A pre-opening inspection is required prior to any food product placement at the facility.

HEARINGS – None

REQUESTS and APPEARANCES – An application has come in from the Reas Foundation to utilize the can drive at the Recycling Center. We had a request from Operation Friendship, but our administrative assistant cannot reconfirm with them. We will try to contact them one more time and if Operation Friendship does not respond, then the Board votes to approve the Reas Foundation using the can drive for the month of November. Ms. Cocalis abstains from the vote; voted to Approve 2 – 0.

CONCERNS OF THE MEMBERS – Ms. Cocalis states that someone has expressed an interest in providing barn inspector services to the Town. It has been reported that not all animals have been inspected and it is difficult for the Board of Health to follow-up because the State DPH representative has told the Board of Health that only his department can have access to the actual locations of the animals. The Board feels that without knowing the locations, there will be a difficulty if the event of an emergency or a disease outbreak. Ms. Cocalis will follow-up with the State.

There was an issue with the completion of a tight tank (septic system) installation at 32 Goodrich Rd. The engineer was Jalbert Engineering and the installer was David Kaitbinski. Previously, during her inspection of the installation on May 22, 2009, the sides of the tanks were not left free standing, (they were backfilled) so Ms. Rusiecki could not conduct a water-tightness test and observe the seams of the sides of the tanks. Alyssa asked that the tanks be vacuum tested in order to prove water-tightness. As a courtesy, Alyssa told the installer that the engineer of record could witness the vacuum test and provide written certification to the Board of Health office. It was not until October 20, 2009 that anyone contacted the office about this project. The engineer's representative stated that they would not be providing the vacuum test because they had not witnessed any such test, despite a State Code requirement for water tightness. The installer provided a document from the manufacturer of the tight tank itself, which ensued in discussions of whether the tank could be vacuum-tested. Having no choice and the statement from the manufacturer stating that he witnessed the water tightness test (without a Board of Health witness), Ms. Rusiecki felt compelled to sign the Certificate of Compliance with a notation that the water tightness test was conducted and certified by the manufacturer. The Board stated that in the future, any and all tight tank installations shall require a hearing with the actual owners of the property and not just the engineer or installer of record, so that the procedures and requirements can be explained fully and in advance to the owner of the property, prior to the installation of any said tank. All tight tank proposals shall be evaluated with end result of the installer, engineer, and the owner knowing their responsibilities. The Board of Health is aware of the deficiencies in the system and fully supports their agent, Ms. Rusiecki, in carrying out her duties.

The Police Department reported a bat bite. The reporting form should be revised.

Voted to adjourn at 10:00PM

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY 11/16/09 @ 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Alyssa Rusiecki
Public Health Agent