

SWAMPSCOTT BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES FEBRUARY 10, 2016

The Board of Health meeting of Wednesday, February 10, 2016 was called to order at 6:00 PM. Attending were Martha Dansdill, Chairwoman, Dr. Larry Block, Board Members, and Jeff Vaughan, Director of Public Health.

The minutes of January 13, 2016 were tabled until all members are present.

Health Director, Jeff Vaughan, presented a flyer being produced by the District Incentive Grant (DIG) Coalition entitled: Catch a Breath from Asthma. This brochure addresses various measures and suggestions of how to prevent asthma attacks. The Board made a few editorial suggestions. Mr. Vaughan stated that Swampscott would receive approximately one thousand (1000) pamphlets in English that he would distribute through the Parent Teachers Association (PTA).

Jeff Vaughan stated that information on the Health Department website has been added or updated. Specifically mentioned were the links on rodent control and a Zika Virus factsheet.

Health Director Vaughan mentioned that the Beer Cellar in Vinnin Square should be opening next week. Also, the indoor portion of Mission on the Bay is aiming for a March opening. It is uncertain when the upper deck of the restaurant will be ready.

Dr. Block stated that he would like to rework the proposal for a voluntary leaf blower ban. Dr. Block will compose a draft for presentation at the next meeting.

In the event that a Physician is not elected when Dr. Block leaves the Board of Health, he has offered to remain in the role of Physician Advisor to sign Standing Orders or answer any medical questions.

Chairwoman, Martha Dansdill, spoke of the upcoming forum entitled: Natural Turf and Landscape Management: Choices and Challenges presented by Chip Osborne, President of Osborne Organics, to be held at the Swampscott High School Auditorium on Thursday, April 7, 2016 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. A "save the date" announcement has already been sent to State Representative, Lori Ehrlich, Selectwoman, Naomi Dreeben, Town Administrator, Thomas Younger, and Director of the Public Works, Gino Cresta. Other local decision makers for the Town of Swampscott and surrounding communities, local landscapers, and residents will also be invited to attend this event.

Martha Dansdill apprised the Board that she attended the Public Housing Authority meeting the previous evening because they were addressing a proposal towards smoke-free housing (Department of Housing and Urban Development: Instituting Smoke-Free Public Housing – proposed rule, filed 11/16/2015). Ms. Dansdill highlighted some of the points in the proposal: "This proposed rule would require each public housing agency (PHA) administering public housing to implement a smoke-free policy. Specifically, this rule proposes that no later than 18 months from the effective date of the final rule, each PHA must implement a policy prohibiting lit tobacco products in all living units, indoor common areas in public housing, and in PHA administrative office buildings. The smoke-free policy must also extend to all outdoor areas up to 25 feet from the housing and administrative office buildings." A vote was taken by the Housing Authority to contact the Board of Health/Health Director in regards to resources and legal assistance in implementing the policy. This assistance would be provided by DIG Coalition.

Dr. Block asked who would be the mediating authority and was answered that the Swampscott Housing Authority would need to police its buildings. Other local communities have already implemented this policy in public housing buildings. The target date for Swampscott to implement the proposal would be April 2017.

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at 6:00 PM in the first floor conference room of the Town Hall on 22 Monument Avenue.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.

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