



BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
January 6, 2015

The Board of Health held a meeting in Room 9 at the Town Hall, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA. The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. Present were Elizabeth Sabounjian, Dr. Jane Williams, Dr. James Ficociello and Shelly Newhouse, Director of Public Health. The next regularly scheduled Board of Health meeting will be February 3, 2015 5:30 p.m. in Room 9 at the Town Hall, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA.

The Board approved the December 2, 2014 minutes.

Public Hearing

28 Melrose Avenue-application for 6-10 chickens

Applicant, Ryan Detzel presented to the Board a written statement outlining his approach to keeping chickens. He addressed cleanliness, noise, disease, shelter and the fact that he is applying for 4 chickens only. This statement will be entered into the minutes as an attached document. The animal inspector gave a favorable recommendation. The Director presented the Board with 2 written objections by abutters. This was signed by 13 abutting residents to Melrose Avenue. This will be attached as entered into the minutes. Mr. Leslie Bruce, 33 Melrose Avenue, spoke in objection to the application for chickens. He was upset that he was not approached by the applicant before hand and that the only communication he received was notice of the meeting. Dr. Williams asked the Director to explain the application process when applying for animals. Mr. Bruce's daughter also spoke in objection stating that this lot in Wilmington is much too small for chickens. Mr. Marten, 9 Woodside Avenue, spoke in objection. He stated he is a biologist and a chemist and has great concerns about disease, run off, noise and allergies. Dr. Williams asked about the wild turkeys in the neighborhood and if they are bothersome to the neighbors. Mr. Marten said they are a nuisance. Dr. Williams spoke as a physician to the attendance and explained the facts about allergy awareness, disease misconceptions and benefits of raising chickens in Wilmington. Wilmington has 39 chicken permits and we never receive any complaints relative to the keeping of chickens. Dr. Ficociello reminded the applicant that a permit is given by the Board and not as a matter of right. But, the abutters also have a right to quality of life in the neighborhood. He does not see any valid reason to not issue a permit, therefore, he made a motion to approve the permit for up to 6 chickens. Dr. Williams, second, voted 3-0. As the abutters were leaving, one announced that he would be back in a month to complain.

Benevento's

Representatives from Benevento's were in attendance to discuss some odor complaints that the Town of Wilmington, Town of North Reading and D.E.P. have been receiving. Elizabeth Sabounjian recused herself and left the meeting due to the fact that she has a conflict of interest in which her position at D.E.P. may have relations with Benevento's. Benevento's is an asphalt batching plant located on the Wilmington/North Reading line. A new neighbor to the plant is Justin Griffin, who lives at 6 Pinecrest Road, North Reading. Mr. Griffin has been experiencing asphalt odors this year and has called North Reading, Wilmington and D.E.P. to complain and ask for assistance. Mr. Griffin was not in attendance at tonight's meeting. The Director explained to the Board that the latest air quality stack testing results were back from D.E.P. and Benevento's currently meets all guidelines for Nitrogen Dioxide, Carbon Monoxide and particulates. Robert Peterson, attorney for Benevento's had those reports and presented them to Martin Fair, North Reading health director. Mr. Fair asked if Benevento's had been doing anything different this past summer as he could smell strong asphalt odors at the North Reading Town Hall which is less than a mile from the plant. Bill from Benevento's explained that they were receiving recycled materials from a new vendor this year and although regulated and allowed, it could have been odors from that particular

material. They will not be using that vendor this coming year when they reopen weather permitting April 1st. The Director stated that she has never received an odor complaint from Benevento's asphalt and she does expect that they will have odors from time to time but they are currently in compliance with D.E.P. regulations for emissions. If we have to we can reconvene in the late spring or early summer to discuss any further operational issues if needed.

New Business

Kevin MacDonald was present to bring up a variety of issues to the Board. He wanted to discuss the oil spill at the High School. Dr. Ficociello stated that this was many years ago and an LSP was hired and all proper reports are filed at D.E.P., and the construction firm is surely handling everything properly. Mr. MacDonald also brought up the Kinder Morgan gas pipeline. The Director explained that this will be a future agenda item. There is also a public meeting regarding the gas line on Thursday January 22, 2015 at the library.

Dr. Ficociello motioned to adjourn at 7:00 p.m., Dr. Williams second.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.


Recording: Shelly Newhouse, Director of Public Health