



BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
December 2, 2014

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 December 16, 2014 p.m. in Room 9 at the Town Hall, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA.

The Board approved the November 18, 2014 minutes.

4 Ferguson Road-application for 6-8 chickens-appeal

Applicant, Beth Bamberg was present to appeal the Boards decision to not grant her an animal permit for chickens. The animal control inspector still gives a favorable recommendation. Abutter, Audrey Cabral, 120 Shawsheen Avenue, would like a written copy of the animal inspectors recommendation. The Director presented emails to the Board from 2 direct abutters referencing allergies and health concerns. Ms. Bamberg submitted pictures to the board to review of several bird feeders on the neighbor's property, Paul Baker. Dr. Williams stated that she has no concerns as a physician for any possible chicken feather allergies as they are very rare. Ms. Cabral has questions regarding location of the coop to her property, attractive wildlife and where the compost will be taken. Ms. Bamberg stated that she will follow any zoning regulations for the coop and transport the compost off site. The Director stated that the Town currently has 30 chicken permits and we have never received a complaint regarding odors, wildlife or nuisances. Ms. Cabral asked what recourse she has if there are problems. Dr. Ficociello reminded her that animal permits are granted on a yearly basis and at any time they can be revoked by the Board if warranted. The Board requested that the maximum number of chickens be 6. Dr. Williams made motion to approve the application, Dr. Ficociello second, voted 3-0.

Wilmington Pop Warner

Dr. Ficociello request that discussion continues requiring Pop Warner to become a no contact sport above the shoulders and below the knees. Chairman Elizabeth Sabounjian presented to the large audience the rules of the meeting. This is not a hearing to draft regulations, this is a discussion about safety and Pop Warner. No vote will be taken tonight and if any regulatory decisions were needed the formal public hearing process would be utilized. Elizabeth Sabounjian invites Pop Warner representatives, Ken Smith, Jerry Sullivan, Joe McCauley and Deb Smith, President of Wilmington Pop Warner to join the table for discussion. Ms. Smith had handouts for the Board and described to the Board the level of commitment and effort that is given to ensure the safety of the children. This includes the Heads Up program, new safety helmets with proper fittings, a player safety program, mandatory safety meeting for parents, EMT's and trainers at every game and strict guidelines on re-entry after any injury. There is a 5-step program in place to enter back into Pop Warner when a player has an injury. Dr. Ficociello reiterated his concern for above the shoulders and below the knees play and if it was to be taken out what would the game lose? Concussions are cumulative over the years for a child. If the NFL does not allow these practices then why are we allowing it? The Burlington football head coach and Wilmington resident was in attendance and stated that there is already a policy in place for head to head contact. If any player is caught doing so either in practice or a game they will be penalized with possible ejection and the referees are aware and follow this policy. You cannot prevent concussions from players that take hits and fall and hit their heads. Many in attendance questioned Dr. Ficociello's reasons as to why he is bringing this to forefront of Wilmington Pop Warner and not all the other sports in Town. Deb Smith stated the no one from the Board has been to any games, practices or fittings of the players. All of this information was presented to the

Board back in February. Dr. Ficociello again asked what do we have to lose? We cannot prevent injuries or concussions. Dr. Williams stated that bicycling does have the most statistics for concussions. She mentioned base line testing and if that is something that they could do. Ms. Smith said that she believed that is something that Pop Warner is looking in to. After a lengthy discussion. Dr. Ficociello sees no need to intercede and is satisfied with the steps that are being taken.

Meeting

Dr. Ficociello informed the Board that he had discussions with the Town Manager regarding Pop Warner.

Dr. Ficociello motioned to adjourn at 6:10 p.m., Ms. Sabounjian second.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.


Recording: Shelly Newhouse, Director of Public Health