



BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
April 18, 2017

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 5:35 p.m. Present were, Elizabeth Sabounjian, Dr. Daniel King, and Shelly Newhouse, Director of Public Health. The next regularly scheduled Board of Health meeting will be May 2, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 9 at the Town Hall, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA.

The Board reviewed and approved the April 4, 2017 minutes

The Board reviewed and approved the most recent food inspections.

New Business

Plastic Bags

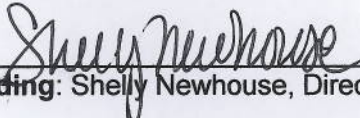
Doug Tranghese, a resident of Wilmington, contacted the Town Manager to encourage the Town to ban thin film plastic bag distribution in the Town. The Town Manager requested the Director to research the subject, provide the findings to the Board and request that the Board give a recommendation. The Director invited Mr. Tranghese to the meeting but he did not attend. There are many pros and cons to a plastic bag ban. The general purpose of banning plastic bags is to eliminate the use of thin film single use plastic bags (ie. Market Basket bags). The production and use of thin film plastic checkout bags is reported to have a significant impact on the environment. These bags are accepted as recyclable in Wilmington at some locations. In the alternative they can be disposed of in the Town's municipal trash collection that is incinerated at Wheelabrator in North Andover. Market Basket and Target do have programs where consumers can bring back bags for recycling. The manager of Wheelabrator has stated that plastic is not an issue at his facility from both a combustion standpoint and receiving standpoint. Plastic is not the highest percentage of the overall waste stream, it's actually 4th behind organics, paper and C & D. Currently about 35 Towns in Massachusetts have plastic bag bans.

Ms. Sabounjian discussed how most of the communities with plastic bag bans have been those that use landfills for disposal rather than incinerating. After additional discussion, the Board of Health determined it is not in the interest of the Town at this time to recommend a ban on thin film plastic bags. However, the Board did conclude that it is promoting reuse and recycling of the bags and will actively push Wilmington retailers to encourage their customers to recycle the bags by bringing them back to the store. The Director will reach out to smaller retailers in Town to see if and how they can also develop programs for recycling of their bags. The Board also made suggestions about how the Director can contact local business organizations to promote the recycling of the bags.

Old Business

The Director received a status update on the Cancer Study from Robert Knorr at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. In summary the review of the water modeling data still is not complete, therefore there really is nothing to update. They hope to have it complete for peer review by the end of the year. Ms. Sabounjian asked the Director to forward the email to the members.

Dr. King, motioned to adjourn at 6:05 p.m., Ms. Sabounjian, seconded, voted 2-0.


Recording: Shelly Newhouse, Director of Public Health