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TOWN OF NORTH READING

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Board of Health

**North Reading Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Oct 18, 2023
Teleconference/Virtual**

Members Present: Gary Hunt, Chairman
Karen Martin

Others Present:

Robert Bracey Health Director
Pam Merrill, Public Health Nurse
Christine Doolin Health Administrator
Steven O'Leary Select Board

7:00 PM

Mr. Gary Hunt opened the meeting

Public Health Nurse Report

Pam Merrill reported in Maven there was only 1 case of influenza, 13 COVID-19, 1 hepatitis C, 1 hepatitis B, 1 pertussis which is whooping cough and after working with the DPH Pam stated it wasn't the communicable type it's called parapertussis so there was no concern about an outbreak. There was 1 salmonella case from someone who ate in another city and one shingles case. Royal Meadow did report to us that there have been 20 positive COVID-19 cases in the past 3 weeks which 18 have recovered, 2 are still active. They also had 9 positive employees and 6 have recovered and 3 are still active. The Health Department has no current mandates in place, Royal Meadow View worked directly with the state DPH who made an onsite visit to the nursing home. The DPH advised the nursing home that they are doing everything correctly. Pam kept in touch with the DPH and at this point it does not appear that the Board needs to intervene unless they feel it's necessary.

Gary Hunt asked does that mean that the town hears from the DPH or are we told concurrently with DPH from the nursing home?

Pam stated DPH does not inform us but the nursing home does take the initiative to reach out to her and explain the situation and Mr. Bracey advised Pam at this point we need to be sure on our end that we have in fact confirmation that DPH is involved.

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Gary Hunt stated that they withdrew all of our orders that were in place.

Pam stated correct.

Gary Hunt asked Pam would it be out of line to ask the nursing home to communicate with us at the same time they communicate with the DPH.

Pam stated she feels they have been transparent in reporting to us.

Mr. Bracey stated under isolation and quarantining regulations if the nursing has something reportable infectious or communicable diseases they are required to notify the DPH and the Board of Health within 24 hours. At any point if they feel that the communication is not transparent then Mr. Bracey or Pam will bring this to the board's attention.

Gary Hunt stated that the only reason he brings that up is because the board was not pleased with the DPH response back in 2020 and that is what prompted them initiating their own orders.

Mr. Bracey stated his messaging through Pam to the DPH that they will make the Board aware if needed and if other action is needed they will make that recommendation to the board. The Health Department will take the necessary action if required to do so.

Health & Wellness Fair

Pam reported that the Health Fair flyer has been broadcasted everywhere and we are looking forward to the event on October 21st.

Gary Hunt stated that this is a great way for our board to communicate to the citizens of North Reading that their well-being and health are a priority.

Health Director Report

Mr. Bracey thanked Pam Merrill and Chrissy Doolin for their hard work with the Health Fair.

Proposed Article on Sustainable Food and Packaging Regulations

Mr. Bracey went over the edits he made to the proposed regulations.

Section 61-4 Administration and Enforcement. He added that food establishments may apply to the committee for approval of new food service ware products as they come onto the market that meet or exceed ASTM requirements. If any establishment in North Reading wants to present an alternative to the products that the Trash and Recycling Committee want to ban they would go before the Trash and Recycling Committee to make that determination as to whether or not the



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product that the establishment is looking to use would be approved or disapproved by the Trash and Recycling Committee versus the Board of Health.

Section B he added that during routine and follow up inspections that yes, the Board of Health would be the enforcing authority to issue citations.

Section C, section 2 is the Committee would be the hearing officers of any offenses that are issued by the Board of Health. The Committee would be the hearing officer for those penalties or fines that are levied upon any establishment in town that is not in compliance with the by-law.

Gary Hunt stated once the board has made edits and they are finalized he would get it off to the Trash and Recycling Committee and set up a meeting with Mr. Greenberg and Mr. Rodgers and come up with a plan moving forward because they tabled this until the June 2024 meeting?

Mr. Bracey stated that is correct and the edits he made are for the board and if the board wants to add or detract anything they can.

He recommended to the board that they go through these regulations and get it to a point where the board feels comfortable but not vote on it right away. He wants to ensure that the Trash and Recycling committee is going to do the town wide training as mentioned. The Health Department would work with them and set up a room at the town hall to allow businesses in the town to come and attend these trainings that way the community can be well informed. Once they get feedback from the community they will meet at the May, 2024 meeting and the board would vote on it and then it would go to the June 2024 town meeting and the board can say that they voted on these and support them.

Mr. O'Leary stated that March should be the dead line for submissions of warrant articles for the June 2024 town meeting. The goal should be a joint article submitted for consideration of town meeting by both the Board of Health and Trash and Recycling Committee.

Mr. Bracey asked should the board invite the Trash and Recycling Committee to the November meeting?

Gary Hunt stated yes.

Karen stated Mr. Bracey's most recent revisions looked good.

Proposed Day Camp Regulations

Mr. Bracey stated he made a couple of edits that board member Karen Martin had suggested under required documentation and timeline. Chairman Mr. Hunt suggested to edit the permit fees. If the board is ok with the edits, he recommends that the board take a vote. Pam Vath was out sick but is ok with the edits and to take a vote. He would like the new regulations and



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applications get mailed out to all the camps as soon as possible, that way they have enough time to digest the new regulations.

Gary Hunt stated he is good with the edits and if Pam and Karen are ok with them we can take a vote.

Mr. Hunt Motioned to accept the day camp regulations that were prepared and issued as of October 18, 2023 for a vote.

Motioned seconded by Karen Martin

All members voted unanimously in favor.

Food Protection Update

Mr. Bracey stated that he is starting food inspections and hopefully will be done prior to the holidays.

Mosquito Control Program

Mr. Bracey stated that the last week of trapping and testing was done. He is happy to report that North Reading did not detect any mosquitos with West Nile virus or EEE, nor has any resident that he is aware of contracted West Nile virus or EEE.

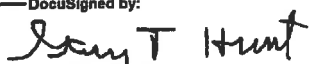
Environmental Health Program

Mr. Bracey reports it has been significantly slow this season again. This would be the second year in a row that it has been quiet. He believes that the economy and the cost of supplies is a big factor.

Pamela Vath motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Motion seconded by Gary Hunt

All members voted unanimously in favor

DocuSigned by:

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Gary Hunt

DocuSigned by:

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Pamela Vath

DocuSigned by:

6AB8CAE38EC248D...
Karen Martin

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