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TOWN OF NORTH READING
Massachusetts

Board of Health

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NORTH READING, MASS.

**North Reading Board of Health Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2023
Teleconference/Virtual**

Members Present: Gary Hunt, Chairman
Karen Martin
Pam Vath

Others Present:

Robert Bracey Health Director
Pam Merrill, Public Health Nurse
Christine Doolin Health Administrator
Mary Samost
Steve O'Leary

7:00 PM

Mr. Gary Hunt opened the meeting

Health Agents Report

Food Protection Program

Joe Fish establishment in North Reading is permanently closed.

Dairy Queen had a change of ownership. The new owners are a corporate organization that owns 5 other Dairy Queens. Mr. Bracey reports that he met with the new owner and went over the site plan process.

Nicks Pizza last weekend one of their sprinkler heads got loose in the walk in cooler. Due to the water Nicks had to discard a lot of the food product. We are working with Nicks and the insurance company now to get an inventory list so that the Health Department can verify that they discarded those food items impacted by the water.

Mario's Restaurant is in the middle of doing renovations. They will be putting in a 10-12 person seat bar. Right now they are just doing deliveries out back and we are trying to work with them to keep them open during this process and also taking all the protective measures to protect the kitchen.

235 North Street, North Reading, MA 01864

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Healthy U Nutrition is a new establishment in town that sells healthy shakes. They are located next to the Hornets Nest.

St. Theresa BBQ Block Party on June 23rd no issues.

Strawberry Festival was on June 24th no issues.

Gary Hunt asked how are things at the Horseshoe?

Mr. Bracey stated that things are going well, they have their food care consultant who comes in once a month to work with them.

Gary Hunt asked if Bob received the report from Luke Roy on the Dunkins back up?

Mr. Bracey stated yes we did receive the report. Just recently they pulled their building permit to start the interior work on some of the piping that they have identified. They will remain closed during the renovation and Mr. Bracey will be doing a spot check to follow up.

Recreational Camps for Children

Mr. Bracey reports three months prior to the start of camps the Health Department mails out the camp application along with policy and procedures. Three applications have been processed so far. Bob reports that it is frustrating to the Health Department staff to receive piece mail from the camps a week before the start of camp.

State regulations requires that a camp application should be submitted 90 days prior to the start of any camp. In the last four years we have compromised that window down to two weeks. Even with that compromise it seems that these particular camps are not adhering to that compromise that we set forth.

Mosquito Control

Mr. Bracey reports that aerial spraying is scheduled for 7/7/23. We have been working with the Middlesex East Mosquito Control to get the catch basins treated. We ordered the briquettes like we do every year but this year we were not able to use them but will be able to use them next year. The DPW is using a different pesticide and will be doing that treatment to the town's catch basins. Mr. Bracey reports that we have not had any positive test for West Nile Virus or Triple E in any mosquitos or humans.

Tobacco Control

Mr. Bracey reports that Ron Beauregard went out to the Lucky Marts in North Reading and did a compliance check and reports that they are in compliance. No other issues with tobacco control at this time.

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Mr. Bracey reports that the season is steady but on the slower side this year.

National Night Out will be August 1, 2023 at Ipswich River Park and the Health Department will be participating.

Town Day will be September 17, 2023.

Public Health Nurse Report

Pam reports that she has the Mammogram Van will be at National Night Out. They will be at Ipswich River Park 10:00am to 6:00pm

Health Fair Update

We have a Health Fair coming up October 21, 2023 at the North Reading High School. Pam stated that she has reached out to several vendors and she was able to get the Mass DPH HOA students to work with us and come up with some flyers and help with reaching out to vendors. We plan to have a farmers market and some local food vendors there. Mr. Bracey has reached out to the Fire, Police and DPW departments. The Senior Center will be involved and Mystic Valley Elder Services will be there. We will be doing our first flu clinic at the Health Fair and we will be setting up more flu clinics at the Town Hall.

Camps Update

Pam reports that this is her first year with the Health Department and notes that the camps information is coming to us by piece mail. Pam states that it is not the Health Departments fault if they do not submit a completed package and cannot open up. The Health Department has allowed up to two weeks instead of the 90 days required to submit a complete package. We have reviewed medical and Cori/Sori documents days before the camp is due to open.

Gary Hunt states that is has been a continuous problem with the camps.

Mr. Bracey stated that years ago he had a conversation with Steven Hughes on this matter. Steven is the Director of Community Sanitation who oversees camps and writes the camps regulations. We want to have ample time to review and process their applications and have that reasonable time to allow them to make whatever corrections there is to make. Mr. Bracey stated that he will reach out to Steven Hughes and ask him to give the camps some guidance and direction as to what their responsibilities are in accordance to the State Sanitary Code for Recreational Camps.

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Gary Hunt stated that sounds like a plan.

Mr. Bracey reports that the Parks and Recreations Department has been very helpful working with us and they have been very supportive of the way the Health Department application process is required to work.

Gary Hunt asked if there is one camp that is better than the others?

Pam Merrill stated that Camp Triumph presented a binder that was alphabetized by the campers, staff, immunization, Cori/Sori and five year work history and that's what we want everything in a binder and presented all at once.

Gary Hunt asked would it be worthwhile to have our best performing camp do a tutorial workshop for the other ones.

Mr. Bracey stated that would be Camp Triumph they submit everything the way we asked them to.

Gary Hunt stated that we should follow up with some sort of formal procedure on our own. Gary asked how many camps do we deal with?

Mr. Bracey stated this year it has been 3 camps.

Maven Update

Pam reports between 5/1/2023 to 7/1/23 there has been only 16 positive COVID-19 cases. We have had 18 Lyme disease and 5 or 6 Influenza. The nursing home did reach out with a per diem worker that worked on July 4th tested negative and then called on July 5th and said she tested positive but could not produce a the test or a picture of the test. Royal Meadow View asked the worker to come in and we will test you and she refused so she is not allowed back at Royal Meadow View.

Royal Meadow did test everyone on that unit staff and residents and no one tested positive.

Mr. Bracey reports that Chief Murphy is retiring and would like to commend him for the work and support that he has given to the Health Department throughout the last three years.

Mr. O'Leary stated that he has been reappointed as the Health Department's Liaison and thanked everyone for the work that they put in.

Mary Samost stated that Pam Merrill's report was well done and added that maybe we should maybe we charge the camps a late fee.

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Gary Hunt stated that is a great idea.

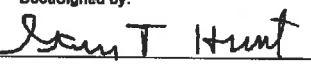
Karen Martin asked do we have to change any sort of regulations to include a fine?

Mr. Bracey stated that he could draft something up and get it send it out to the Board. We can do a first review of the application, second and third and charge accordingly.

Karen Martin motioned *to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm.*

Motion seconded by Pam Vath

All members voted unanimously in favor

DocuSigned by:

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Gary Hunt

DocuSigned by:

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Pamela Vath

DocuSigned by:

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Karen Martin

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