

Town of Swampscott

Board of Health

Minutes to meeting June 24, 2018

Board of Health June 24, 2018 6:30 PM Attending were Marianne Hartmann, Alison Oxtan, and joined by Jeffrey Vaughan, Health Director with Linda Paster, recording.

Chairwoman, Marianne Hartmann opened the meeting at 6:05 pm. Minutes of the past May 23, 2018 meeting were tabled.

Public Comment

James Olivetti, 86 Farragut Road stated that he was observing a serious rat problem with the first siting in six plus years. Resident stated he had called an exterminating company from Saugus who stated they were getting many calls

Jeff Vaughan, Health Director stated rodents do come and go. Town has tried to get the "T" to do something, whereas Pine St is heavy. Generally they canvass the neighborhood looking for food and will look in a 1-2 block radius. The neighbors are asked to cover their trash and empty bird feeders. The resident said his neighbor next door has burrows and Ellis Road has sitings. The 86 Farragut Road resident has given the Health Director permission to enter his property to observe.

Old Business

Dog Waste – For the Love of Swampscott has said they want to help with signage & "poop pots". Marianne Hartmann spoke to Chief Madigan and Sean Fitzgerald about Animal Control. Jeff Vaughan spoke to Marblehead about regionalization and has considered raising the fine.

Allison Oxtan stated that since Mike Scola no longer works with the town she hasn't been able to get a school maintenance update. Tom Prentiss said he would look into it. They have approved a new boiler for heat but what are they doing for ventilation? There are air-quality concerns.

New Business

The Board of Health has received complaints regarding the noise level at the Mission on the Bay with loud bands until 11:00 pm. The owner was called and left a message inviting him to the meeting. Jeff Vaughan stated that they were permitted, by the Selectmen, to have music. Department of Environmental Protection is the source for sound violations, violation meaning would that is ten decibels

above the ambient. Jeff also stated that there is no direct town regulation for noise so they have used the state guideline in the past. Outdoor music at this restaurant is new, the previous owner had music but indoors. Chairman Hartmann instructed Jeff Vaughan to speak to the police for complaints.

Jeff Vaughan stated that September is the beginning of the ban on plastic bags as presented by the Selectmen to Town Meeting. The town is looking for the Board of Health to educate the public with videos, news, social media and farmers market. To set-up a booth at the Farmer's Market you would contact Janell Cameron.

There has been coyote sitings and Chief Madigan called Jeff Vaughan at home Saturday to advise him that a young resident had been bitten. Animal Control and Environmental Police said it sounded like a protection behavior by the animal. The coyote was never found. Jeff Vaughan called epidemiology and gave the police information about what to do in the case of an encounter. There will be posters Sunday at the Farmer's Market for publicity as well as around town, at parks etc.

Health Department has started to test beaches every Wednesday until Labor Day. If the town receives a high reading, there will be a retest. If that retest fails, they will then post the beach closing.

There seems to be a neighborhood dispute on Puritan Road where a huge willow tree was downed during a storm and the neighbor stacked termite infested wood against the neighbors fence. The neighbor is cutting the tree himself in the middle of the yard so it is a slow process. They have been advised on termite prevention.

A resident at 2 Hanley Tr has complained that there is a landscaping business actively going on with trucks, compost, mulch. Neighbor was advised that this is a "grandfathered" business.

Looking for a better way to get information to social media, i.e. facebook

Board of Health adjourned the meeting at 6:58 pm and will check with Emily Cilley for a date of next meeting.

Board of Health reopened the meeting at 7:00 p.m., as residents who would like to make comment to the noise level of Mission on the Bay thought the meeting began at 7:00 p.m

Peter McEnerney, 201 Humphrey Street stated he was at the meeting to complain about the excessive noise level at the Mission on the Bay. On March 7, at the Selectmen's meeting, they stated that no music would be heard beyond 100 feet with addresses listed through 156 Humphrey St. Mr. Bloom said he would mitigate the sound but has not done so.

Mike Campbell, 34 Phillips St stated that they are playing weekdays until 11pm and Sunday until 10pm

Thursday, Friday, Saturday until 11:00 pm depending on the band. Peter McNerney stated that within the 100 feet it is not a problem, beyond that is a nuisance. Marianne Hartmann stated that the Board of Health can only do something if the noise level is excessive, not if the sound could be heard. Mike Campbell stated that Swampscott doesn't have its' own noise code and that in its absence it diverts to the state code. At the Selectmens' meeting, Marty Bloom, owner, agreed to the 100 ft circumference and signed a noise control document that included address. Mike Campbell stated that last year, they had to shut their bedroom window. Mary Ellen Fletcher who lives on Puritan Road has heard the music. Peter McNerney stated that people walk down Humphrey Street for parking purposes and at the close of the music are loud and disruptive. This is noise pollution!.

The Board of Health took this under advisement and adjourned the meeting

Respectfully submitted

Linda Paster

