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Board of Health
Town of Swampscott
22 Monument Ave
Swampscott MA 01907

The Board of Health held its' meeting on November 27, 2017 at Swampscott Town Hall, Selectmen's Meeting Room scheduled for 6:00 pm, as posted. Chairperson Marianne Hartman opened the meeting with Allison Oxtan and Emily Ciley in attendance, along with Jeffrey Vaughan, Health Director.

The minutes from the previous meeting were tabled until such time as all were present for discussion.

Dog waste: Marianne Hartmann sat at a meeting with Gangi Cooper from the School Committee and Peter Spellios from the Selectmen to discuss what could be done to improve the current lack of dog owners picking up after their pets. The school nurses spend valuable time scraping shoes. Dog waste litters the athletic fields showing that owners don't care to clean-up, while enforcement is an issue. It is posted on fencing that No Dogs Allowed. When questioned about the enforcement it was stated that there is no By-law and the ACO must catch the offense. There is, however, an active leash law. Ms Hartmann asked who the enforcement official is for this type of incident. Jeff Vaughan stated that oversight is in the hands of the "on-call" Animal Control Officer and the Swampscott Police Department.

Resident, Tasia Vasiliou stated that her children attend Stanley School and there is a person who allows their dog to use Ewing Woods and the adjacent sport field. Person allowed their dog to urinate on the soccer net and when confronted, walked away. Ms. Hartmann stated that dogs use the "bowl" at the SMS often and that a bag dispenser is there. She feels this sometimes invites the use or at least confuses the situation since there is a No Dogs sign there

The Animal Control Officer is on call to the Health Department. Jeff Vaughan has called and asked her to watch the schools for this offense but is part-time and low-funded. This is one of many tasks. It is the opinion of the Health Department that it would be better served to have the ACO under the Police.

Board of Health decided that they would look into an update to By-law, enforcement presence, ticketing offenders, cameras, post on social media the presence of the leash law. Girl Scouts are raising awareness through postcards and posters working toward their Silver Award. Peter Spellios stated he doesn't believe the Health Department is doing enough toward enforcement and ticketing. Nobody is policing this issue. Violations dwindle with ticketing. Approach the Town Administrator to ask Town Counsel to draft by-laws for Town Meeting

Marianne Hartmann suggested a sub-committee of volunteer citizens. Made motion to form a sub committee for education and enforcement on the health risks for pet owners

Healthy Safe and Help Incentive Program (HSH)

Emily Ciley discussed a proposal for Healthy Safe and Help Incentive Program (HSH) to acknowledge good behaviors. Restaurants could donate gift cards. Jeff Vaughan stated that this would be a conflict

of interest since the Board of Health does the licensing for these restaurants. Marianne Hartmann suggested Emily Ciley contact the State Ethics Dept. with the question for guidelines.

Public Health statement on gun safety

Marianne Hartman received a call from Salem News for endorsement of a gun safety statement given by the Peabody Health Director of Public Health.

We Board of Health support this statement along with other cities and towns in the area that statement against violence and adaptation of measures toward prevention.

Allison Oxtan made a motion to post the statement to the website. Motion accepted unanimously.

Old Business

Board of Health and School Committee – Allison Oxtan spoke to Amy O'Connor of the schools in crisis and about the plan to update the maintenance and that the Board of Health was happy that it was being looked at and that improvements to the maintenance and accountability. She also stated that there is concern with the onslaught of winter and the building being ventilated. Jeff Vaughan submitted a report from Mike Scola .

Health Director Report

Town Hall is in the process of moving offices around. The Health Department will move to the third floor along with the Heal Nurse. The State Health Conference schedule for March 2018. Changes are being made to the Recreational Camp regulations.

New

Met with Sean the Town Administrator and discussed the Dog officer, the Health Department move, clerical staff. The Town Administrator wants to attend a meeting and discuss outreach. Do we get the CDC reports? Jeff Vaughan stated it was a public website for all to see.

Next meeting will be Wednesday January 3, 2018.

Meeting adjourn 8:53 p.m. Unanimous