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Board of Health Minutes 03/02/2011



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

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Christine M. Connolly, MPH, CHO Director of Health and Human Services

Board of Health Meeting Minutes Wednesday, March 2, 2011 Ground Floor Conference Room Arlington Senior Center 5:30pm

Board Members in Attendance: Dr. Marie Walsh Condon, Mr. Gregory Leonardos and Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick (Chair) Staff in Attendance: Christine Connolly, Director of Health and Human Services, Natasha Waden, Health Compliance Officer, and James Feeney, Health Compliance Officer.

• The meeting minutes for December 8, 2010 were approved.

PRESENTATION: Board of Health Annual Report

Inspector Waden reported on the number and types of permits issued (food, tobacco, waste hauler, funeral director, tanning, semi-public pool, public beach, ice rink, and body art); the number and types of inspections conducted (food, tobacco compliance, housing, demolition and nuisances), and the number of properties condemned in 2010. Waden also reported that the health department held 14 flu vaccination clinics and vaccinated over 2500 people with the help of 60 administrative volunteers and 80 nurse volunteers. In addition 77 communicable diseases were reported in the Town of Arlington. A discussion was held regarding the increase in Hepatitis C cases which according to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, represents young people between the ages of 15-24 injecting drugs. Connolly stated that with this new information, the public health nurse will look into the demographics of Arlington's cases and determine if they match what the State has reported and whether or not prevention education is needed in a specific area of Town.

Budget Presentation:

Director Connolly reported that 2.7 % cuts were made February 1, 2011 instead of January 1, 2011. As a result the Sealer of Weights and Measures position has been cut from 18 hours to 9 hours per week. As of July 1, 2011 (FY12) the town funding for the Sealer of Weights and Measures position will be cut completely. Connolly reported that while this is a mandated position, she will be working to bring funds in from other sources to keep this position or contract these services out. Additional information regarding upcoming budget cuts to the Health Department will be reported as it becomes available.

Restaurant Updates

Inspector Waden reported Prose, Quizno's and Video Horizons did not renew their Food Establishment permits for 2011. Waden informed the board that two new plan review applications; Acitron, a Mexican eatery going into the location of the Rio; and Sabzi, an Iranian eatery going into the location of Prose have been submitted to this office and are in the construction phases. Waden also informed the Board that Comella's has opened for business and Fresh Pond Seafood is still under the construction phase. Lastly, Waden reported that the Health Department, Arlington Food Pantry, The Church of Our Savior, and Scutra Restaurant teamed up to run a pilot vacation lunch program at the Thompson Elementary School. The program called Thompson Eats provided free lunch to Thompson Elementary School students and their families on Tuesday and Thursday of school vacation week. Connolly stated that although there were not as many attendees as expected, additional advertising will be conducted for another event during April vacation.

• Environmental Updates

Inspector James Feeney reported that there had been an oil spill on Marathon Street in February and a few water main breaks over the past few months which have resulted in temporary closure of some food establishments. Feeney provided a status update on the following housing cases: 18 Hamilton Road #106, 126-128 Madison Avenue, 63 Windsor Street, 20 Vista Circle, and 10 Rawson Road.

Public Health Nurse Updates:

Public Health Nurse updates were discussed during the Annual Report Presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 6:29pm