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Board of Health Minutes 03/04/2009

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 4, 2009
Ground Floor Conference Room
Senior Center, 27 Maple Street
5:15pm

Board Members in Attendance: Dr. Marie Walsh Condon, Mr. Gregory Leonardos and Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick (Chair)
Staff in Attendance: Christine Sharkey, Director of Health and Human Services, Natasha Thorne, Health Inspector, Joseph Carabello, Health Inspector, Mary Ann Jacobs, Secretary

- December 12, 2008 meeting minutes accepted as amended.

II. INTRODUCTION: New Board of Health Member, Dr. Marie Walsh Condon

The Board is very pleased to welcome Dr. Walsh Condon to the Board. Marie is a former Director of Arlington's Health Dept, left the position to study at Tufts Medical School. Dr Walsh is now in her last year of residency and plans to practice family medicine.

III. HEARING: Sun's Chinese Kitchen

The owner, Yong Tan Zheng and nephew, Sammy, were present at hearing.

During a routine inspection on 1/25/09, Inspector Chris Ciaccao, discovered food being prepared with no running water in the establishment. This is considered an imminent health hazard and requires notification to the Board of Health and the immediate closing of the establishment until the problem is rectified. The BOH requires a certified food manager must be present at all times during operation, and that the current certified food manager take a refresher course. The restaurant must pay a \$100 re-inspection fee.

IV. VARIANCE REQUEST: Daniel Abramovich, 14 Rhinecliff Street

Mr. Abramovich wishes to add a half-bath to his house in a very small area and would like to install new type of short depth-toilet which has not been approved by the State Plumbing Board. He is requesting a variance from the State and is asking approval by the Arlington Board of Health as part of the process. Christine Sharkey will get in touch with the Plumbing Inspector to investigate this new fixture and will ask if he feels this is a workable and safe fixture.

V. UPDATE: Town Meeting Warrant

The 2009 Arlington Town Meeting will commence on Monday, April 27, 2009.

A draft of the Warrant has been made available to the Board Members and discussions were held regarding Board of Health warrant article putting in place guidelines for mobile ice cream trucks.

The guidelines include rules prohibiting vending during school hours, parking in the reservoir parking lot and other safety guidelines.

A warrant has been filed proposing that Arlington residents be allowed to raise hens in Arlington. This would involve two articles; first, the Building Dept would be required to change the zoning by-law and an actual proposal for a new law to be written. Information was presented to the Board regarding other communities as follows: Brookline has a 100-ft setback recommended for placement of a chicken coop, Lexington has a 2 acre lot requirement, Winchester has a 50-ft setback from every property line. Cambridge does not allow chickens. C. Sharkey has asked the Board to recommend to the Board of Selectmen a 50-ft setback from every property line, building and fire codes to be established, proper fencing for protection from wild birds, and cleaning guidelines to control odors. The Board Members unanimously voted to oppose

this proposal because Arlington is too densely populated and the risk of disease that could result is too great.

- UPDATE: Arlington Youth Health and Safety Coalition 3rd Annual Community Forum will be held on Thursday, March 19, 7-9pm at the town hall. The Forum will feature mother and son, Chris and Toren Volkmann, authors of a book on their struggle with teen drinking. The book is titled "From Binge to Blackout" and the two have been traveling throughout the US sharing their experiences in the hopes of helping other families to recognize the problem early on.
- UPDATE: Regionalization of Public Health Services

Further discussion is underway with Lexington and Belmont regarding regionalization of public health services. The three communities submitted an application to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) to further study regionalization.

- Restaurant updates

Natasha Thorne reported the following: Sala Thai has closed, I, Chef has a new owner, Steve's Pizza has been sold and is now Elton's Roast Beef, the Capitol Theater is doing a small renovation in the food area. Natasha Thorne reviewed the last inspection report for Sweet Sue with the Board members outlining that there were 9 critical violations. In addition, the establishment was closed on 2 occasions as a result of workers' comp concerns by the State and a lack of power at the establishment. The board decided that a hearing be held with the establishment at the next board meeting.

Adjourn