



TOWN OF TEWKSBURY BOARD OF HEALTH

Raymond Barry, Chairman
Robert Scarano, Vice Chair
Melissa Braga, Clerk
Charles Roux, Member
Susan Amato, Member

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

MEETING MINUTES September 15, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Raymond Barry, Chairman, at 6:00 p.m. Present at the meeting were Melissa Braga, clerk, Charles Roux, and Susan Amato, members. Also in attendance was Shannon Gillis, Director of Public Health. Vice-Chair Robert Scarano was not present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- **August 18, 2022 meeting minutes presented for approval**

MOTION: Ms. Amato made the motion to approve the August 18, 2022 meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Braga and the motion unanimously carried 4-0.

Mr. Barry stated that any BOH member who is not present at a meeting can view the recording and if they feel comfortable, they can vote on the minutes or abstain from voting.

New Business:

- **Siobhan O'Connor** - Body Art Apprentice for Route 38 Tattoo, 2297 Main St. to meet the Board. Ms. O'Connor will be apprenticing with Todd Arsenault, Route 38 Tattoo.
- **Jessica Ripley** - Body Art Apprentice for Route 38 Tattoo, 2297 Main St. to meet the Board. Ms. Ripley will be apprenticing with Todd Arsenault, Route 38 Tattoo.

Present were Siobhan O'Connor and Jessica Ripley, apprentices for Route 38 Tattoo. Mr. Barry stated that one of the requirements for a practitioner and apprentice permit was completing a forty hour hygiene course. The Quincy Health Department's nurse ran an outstanding program that the body art practitioners took. That department stopped offering the course about three years ago. Applicants were taking trainings wherever they could find it and were taking these trainings from places that the Board was not aware nor had ever heard of. A previous member on the Board would quiz the applicants on proper techniques and hygiene. The permitted tattoo establishments in town are now using the same trainer out of New Hampshire. The board members felt that this training program was comparable to the Quincy course so applicants that take this training course would just have to have a meet and greet with the Board. The Public Health Director approves the applicants before they are brought before the Board. The Board members can make an administrative decision that once the applicant is approved by the Director, they would not need to appear before the Board. Ms. Gillis stated that both applicants submitted the required paperwork and was reviewed by both herself and the Town Nurse. Both applicants gave a bit of background information on themselves. Mr. Barry asked them if they have read the health and safety plan for Route 38 Tattoo to which they both responded yes. Ms. Gillis stated that the apprentice permit is renewed every six months and can be held for up to two years. It would all depend on Todd as to when they have the required training and hours.

Mr. Barry stated that the apprentices are required to keep a training log. The Board wished the applicants good luck.

Old Business:

- 1899 Smoke Shop, 1899 Main St. – Violation occurred on July 6, 2022

Present was Paritosh Patel, owner of 1899 Smoke Shop, which holds both a tobacco and food permit. Mr. Patel apologized for not showing up at the last BOH meeting reporting that he did not receive the letter to appear in front of the Board. The sales violation of July 6th was discussed and asked how Mr. Patel will prevent violations in the future. A discussion ensued. Mr. Barry stated that the Board will be updating the Tobacco Regulations to be on par with the State's. The Board cannot offer leniency with the fine as that fine is set by the State. The Board looked into whether or not the fine needed to be paid in one lump sum or if it could be paid in installments. Town Council stated that the fine could be paid in installments however, all outstanding fines need to be paid in full in order for the permit to be renewed. Mr. Roux asked how many tobacco-only shops were in town. A discussion ensued regarding smoke shops, vape and retail marijuana shops. Mr. Roux stated that he thought that the BOH should have been part of the initial discussions on retail marijuana instead of being brought in at the end. Mr. Barry suggested that Mr. Sadwick come to the next BOH meeting for a discussion.

Discussion:

Mr. Barry suggested a temporary pause on having body art applicants come before the Board and to give the Director administrative decision. The Director reviews the application and having to come before the Board could hold up an applicant. Since Mr. Scarano is not at tonight's meeting, he would like him present when discussing the update to the body art regulations. A discussion ensued regarding setting up a quiz based on the concepts of the Quincy's course training materials. Ms. Amato and Ms. Braga agreed that this was a good idea. Mr. Barry stated that the body art regulations need to be updated to include microblading and not just tattooing and to include updates that will promote public health. Ms. Gillis will check on getting the information that was included in the Quincy course in order to set up the quiz.

MOTION: Ms. Amato made the motion to temporarily suspend the requirement of practitioners and apprentices to go before the Board until the Body Art regulations have been updated and to give the Public Health Director the administrative decision to approve applications; seconded by Ms. Braga and the motion unanimously carried 4-0.

Director Reports:

- **Public Health Excellence grant & Regional Staff update**

Ms. Gillis stated that the PHE grant is a regional grant with Tyngsboro, Chelmsford, and Billerica. NEPHA North East Health Alliance shared services three years.

Staff update – Ms. Gillis stated that Vincent left on September 2nd to pursue his dream of becoming a firefighter. Interviews are currently being conducted to fill the position.

Capacity Assessment – All PHE grant recipients are required to participate in a capacity assessment three-part survey to assess the current state of local public health in Massachusetts. It is a resource assessment for DPH to know where resources are needed in terms of staffing, training, and funding across the state. The first part of the survey is baseline capacity assessment

released this Tuesday and is due September 30th. The second part is a workforce survey and will be release after September 30th. The third is a document request estimated to take about eight hours.

➤ **Lisa's Pizza update**

A completed plan review form was submitted. A plan of renovation is needed. They are still closed and the dumpster enclosure is in process.

➤ **West Nile Virus**

Ms. Gillis stated that there have been four confirmed cases of WNV in the state, three confirmed in Suffolk County and one confirmed case in Middlesex County. Mosquitoes don't go away for good until the first freeze, followed by temperatures consistently below fifty degrees.

➤ **Fall Festival October 1st & 2nd**

Ms. Gillis stated that the Fall Festival will be held on October 1st and 2nd from 12-5pm at Livingston Street. There will be food vendors, crafts, helicopter rides, a petting zoo and live music.

➤ **Flu Clinics**

Flu clinics will be held Tuesday September 27th from 9am-12pm at the Senior Center and is open to the public. Monday October 3rd will be held at the Housing Authority. If you are homebound and need a flu shot, please call the Health Department.

- There will be a Backyard Hen group meeting organized by Pam Thomas, Animal Inspector, on October 12th at the library from 5:30-8pm. There will be a guest speaker.

Board Reports:

- Mr. Barry stated that he would like to set up a calendar of upcoming meetings with a topic for each meeting for an educational piece at the end of the meeting. September is Emergency Preparedness month. Mr. Barry would like to do another emergency preparedness event in town on a Saturday in September to help residents be aware of what could happen during an emergency and what the responsibilities are of the residents and the Town during an emergency. Mr. Barry stated that there are links on the Town's website in regards to food safety during a power outage. There are also other links as well as a link for the Medical Reserve Corp. A discussion ensued. Ms. Amato stated that educating the public is important. Mr. Barry stated that October is substance abuse and substance prevention month. Historically, Maria Ruggerio from Tewksbury Cares and the Police Chief usually attend the October meeting to discuss resources and statistics. Hopefully they can attend and do Narcan administration training as well. Mr. Barry asked the Board to look for topics for each month and the topics could be advertised on the Town's website as well as the agenda. Another educational topic could be grease tanks and grease and other items that are being put down the Town's drain. Ms. Braga stated that there is also an app called FEMA that will give you tips and alerts on upcoming weather for emergency preparedness events. Mr. Barry stated that the Board members all have a role in the Emergency Dispensing Site and the High School. That can also be discussed. Mr. Barry would like the Board to be more of a pro-active Board vs. a reactive Board.

Mr. Barry stated that it was brought up to his attention by a prior BOH member that he was not keeping other BOH members apprised of situations. Mr. Barry stated that any time information needs to be disseminated to other BOH members, that is done through the Public Health Director. Having discussion or sending out information by the Chair could violate the Open Meeting Law. The Open Meeting Law would need to be tweaked as there can't even be a BOH training without being in violation of the law. This goes for other Boards as well. If the Chairman feels as though the Board members need to be informed about a situation, the Director will send an email as the Chairman cannot. Mr. Barry stated that this is why he does not communicate through email to the other members as a group.

Ms. Braga met with Maria Ruggerio and was given a binder with information regarding Tewksbury Cares. There is a lot of information to go through and she will look into contacting former members to get a better understanding of what needs to be done and clarifications as things have appeared to move over to the Front-Line Initiative. Ms. Braga also reported that there is a warning from the DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) of a brightly colored fentanyl drug out which is targeting young children as it can appear like candy or even sidewalk chalk. The residents should be aware of this as it is a drug and keep an eye out for anything suspicious, especially with Halloween coming up. It is recommended that any suspicious candy to not open it, do not consume it, and to contact the police department if believed to be an unknown substance. Ms. Braga also reported the next Town meeting will be held on October 3rd at 7pm at the Tewksbury Highschool. Clean-up day for Tewksbury is September 24th for any residents who would like to volunteer to help keep the town clean.

Mr. Barry stated that if residents have unused medication, the safest way to dispose of it is to bring it to the medical waste kiosk in the front of the Police Station. Medication (pill form) can be put in a zip lock bag and put into the canister where it will be properly disposed of.

Mr. Barry stated that the Board members can send any ideas or topics to the Health Director.

Announcements:

Adjourn:

MOTION: Mr. Roux made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Braga and the motion unanimously carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm.

Approved on: 10/20/22

List of documents for September 15, 2022
Documents are located at the Tewksbury Health Department

Approval of Minutes:

August 18, 2022

Public Hearing:

New Business:

O'Connor body art apprentice packet

Ripley body art apprentice packet

Old Business:

1899 Main St. letter dated 9/8/22 – Attendance to BOH meeting

1899 Main St. email dated 9/8/22 – Owner will be in attendance

Director Reports:

Board Reports:

Announcements: