

BOARD OF HEALTH
Hearing Room, Second Floor, City Hall: 210 Main Street
January 18, 2018 Minutes

BOH Members Present: Joanne Levin; Suzanne Smith; Cynthia Suopis and William Hargraves

BOH Members Absent: None

Staff: Merridith O’Leary, Director and Melissa Roberts-Cote, BOH Clerk

Staff Absent: None

Meeting opened January 18, 2018 at 5:30 pm by Joanne Levin

I. Public Comment Session: No Public Comments.

II. Review Minutes

A. Meeting Minutes from December 7, 2017

Motion: Approved: Motion made by Cynthia Suopis to accept the December 7, 2017th minutes with noted minor changes, seconded by William Hargraves. All were in favor (3-0)-Suzanne Smith abstained.

III. Action: Signatures for letter to Governor Baker regarding the fracked gas infrastructure (FGI)

Board Members signed the letter they wrote to Governor Baker. Board of Health Clerk will send the letter by mail.

IV. Discussion: Review and Discussion of Draft Regulation 935 CMR 500 Adult Use of Marijuana

Board of Health members spoke about the draft regulation in detail with regard to the importance of protecting the public health in the forefront. The Board would like to convey to the City Council their concerns, so that local regulations may be put in place before the April deadline. The state regulations say to not place an establishment within 500 feet of a pre-existing school; discussion of this ensued. Other concerns include limiting exposure to youth with window displays—this appears to be adequately addressed in the state regulations. There was discussion of putting a cap on the number of establishments, not currently in the state regulations. The merits to this were discussed, and it was noted that with alcohol, there is data that suggests that the density of establishments is related to youth use/abuse. Also of concern is the number of Marijuana Social Consumption Establishments and ”mixed use” establishments, and the lack of clarity in the state regulations about whether they would be 21 and over establishments; There was general agreement about not allowing mobile units, as is currently the case with alcohol, since it would be impossible to exclude youth. It was also proposed that a portion of the 3% tax in our host agreement should be used for prevention.

Director O’Leary will speak with Cheryl Sbarra, J.D. (Massachusetts Association of Health Boards Director of Policy and Law) to gain her understanding of the draft regulation and get the information back to the Board. Director O’Leary will email the Board specific sections of the draft to review in preparation of the next City Council Meeting and outline Public Health Concerns.

The draft regulation will be finalized by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission by March 15, 2018 and the deadline for the city to clarify its local regulations is April 1, 2018.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission will hold several public hearings regarding draft 935 CMR 500.000, Adult Use of Marijuana. Dates, time and locations were given to the Board.

V. Presentation: Safe Injection Sites-J. Cherry Sullivan, MPH, Hampshire Hope Coordinator

J. Cherry Sullivan presented a brief on Community Health Engagement Locations (CHEL) or Supervised Injection Facilities. Ms. Sullivan learned about Supervised Injection Facilities from the National Conference in Atlanta last May. Ms. Sullivan brought the information to the Hampshire HOPE coalition members and key stake holders regarding what/if our community could benefit from a CHEL. The coalition discussed many concerns that a CHEL would present from having one in our community. The coalition conducted interviews with various stakeholders and respondents; using the survey to determine the feedback as well as if a CHEL is a good fit for our community. Hampshire Hope's Executive Committee and Coalition are still collecting data, as well to providing a safer alternative to prevention of overdose with an effective approach to handling addiction with harm reduction.

VI. Department Updates:

- A. Marcus Gabrieli was offered the position for part-time Health Inspector and accepted and will start on January 22, 2018
- B. Michele Farry was offered the position for Assistant Opioid Coordinator and accepted and will start on February 1, 2018.
- C. The vacancy for the Board of Health is posted on the City Website.
- D. Director O'Leary and Ms. Sullivan are working on creating a data base as well as an advisory committee for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant. Since the start they have had three new Police Departments that have joined and created internal policies. A total of 15 police departments and are now carrying Narcan.
- E. The Mosquito Control District Coalition was awarded \$150,000.00 for the startup of the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District. The funding that was awarded will pay for the communities that are buying into the coalition for the first year. Director O'Leary has put an application in to be a commissioner of the Mosquito Control District.

Meeting Closed: Motion to Close Meeting: Motion made to close the Board of Health Meeting by William Hargraves, seconded by Cynthia Suopis, all in favor (4-0)

Meeting closed at 7:10 PM.

The next scheduled Board of health Meeting: February 15, 2018
Melissa Roberts-Cote, BOH Clerk

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Meeting Document List

The following documents were available to the Board of Health during their scheduled meeting.

These documents are available for review at the:

Northampton Health Department, 212 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060

- Meeting Agenda
- December 7, 2017
- Final Letter to Governor Charles Baker regarding fracked gas infrastructure
- Massachusetts Draft 935 CMR 500.000: Adult Use of Marijuana
- Hampshire Hope Assessment Health Engagement Locations Report
- Hampshire Hope Community Health Engagement Location PowerPoint Presentation
- Resume for Marcus Gabrieli
- Resume for Michele Farry