



Town Of Fairfield

Minutes of the Board of Health of the Town of Fairfield meeting held on April 8th 2013 in the First Floor Conference Room of Sullivan Independence Hall, 725 Old Post Road, Fairfield, Connecticut.

1. Call to Order at 7:30pm by Chairperson: Dr. Hen

Members Present: Dr. Hen, Dr. Blumenfeld, Dr. Braun, Carolyn Shea

Members Absent: Sue Brand, Denise Walsh, Kevin Lennon

Also Present: Joanne Ryan, Nursing Supervisor, and Sands Cleary Director of Health.

Dr. Hen made a motion, seconded by Dr. Braun to go out of order of agenda and take item # 5.(B) next. Motion carried unanimously.

5. (B) Below Grade Food Preparation Discussion

Sands Cleary reported they had received some communication from establishment owner and had a few discussions with owners of proposed establishments over the past several months who proposed to conduct food preparation in the basement area of their establishment. Sands explained this is currently prohibited under Section 15.6 (n) 1 of the Fairfield Public Health code which reads "No food or drink shall be prepared for service in an area the floor level of which is below the outside grade level.

This request was brought up last month under communications. Director Cleary was asked to research the history of this and compare to what other municipalities are doing in regard to this. The Director found some historical references under Consumer Protection regulations related to bakeries that prohibits below grade preparation and storage of flour and grains.

Director Cleary conducted a survey of other Health Department and Districts and out of the 21 responses only one said they do not allow below grade food preparation. The other 20 said they don't prevent it in anyway as long it complies with fire and building codes.

A discussion ensued regarding possibility of changing the code: the way it is presently written and how it is effecting establishments presently and how it is being enforced currently. The Director checked with the Town Clerk regarding changing the code and was advised that based upon the Town Charter, and our code, an action of the Board of Health a vote can repeal or add language to the Public Health Code.

The board at this time invited Attorney Bryan L. LeClerc representing Jason and Paula Garelick to speak. They have plans to develop 3611 Post Road building into a new Garelick and Herbs in Fairfield. Unfortunately the code that is just being discussed is preventing them from putting a state of the art 400sq foot bakery in the basement and food preparation and was not aware of this code. Atty Leclerc was happy that this code was being discussed this evening, and distributed to

the board plans for the lower level of the Garelick and Herbs in Fairfield and went over it in great detail with the board. Being no further discussion

Dr Hen motioned, that 15.6 (n)1 of the Public Health code be amended in such a manner that the sentence; “No food or drink shall be prepared for service in an area the floor level of which is below the outside grade level” be deleted, the motion was seconded by Dr. Blumenfeld. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Due to lack of quorum of people that attended last month the Board of Health March 11th 2013 Meeting Minutes will be tabled until next month for approval.

3. Reports:

a) Director of Health – Sands Cleary

Budget Development:

The Director reported that the budget has gone before the Board of Selectman and the Board of Finance and to date it is the same budget as what was proposed. It now goes before the RTM.

Director Cleary mentioned that he is stepping down from his position as the ESF 8 Representative to the Regional Emergency Planning Team but will continue to finish up his work related to the Long Term Care Mutual Aid Plan and was able to obtain from the REPT an additional \$22,000 to support that project for one more year.

Community Health Assessment and Health Improvement Plan:

The Director shared that they had on the 26th their first Community and Health Improvement Plan workshop. Director Cleary was out of town on business that week but Sarah Levy, Health Educator, Mary Ellen Dragicevich, Public Health Nurse and Terry Geigengack, Director of Human and Social Services represented Fairfield. There were 4 focus areas so they each chose one and there will be another workshop to finish off the process tomorrow. Director Cleary shared that the a Regional Health Improvement Plan should be completed in the next few months and will shared with the board when completed. The goal will be to have a Fairfield specific Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plans by early 2014.

The Director had information posted on the town website regarding gardening and post flooded soils.

Director Cleary reported on the 2013 National Hurricane Conference that he attended representing Region 1 REPT and shared about some of the sessions attended related to mass care, volunteer coordination and storm surge predications.

Condemnation Board:

The Director reported another 2 Structures taken down this month and is working on 3 additional ones approved by the First Selectman. Once funding is secured the dwelling will come down.

The Environmental Program Staff will conduct our Pb Safe Campaign with activities on Earth Day.

b) Public Health Nursing Supervisor: Joanne Ryan

Joanne reported on the computer training data base which is moving along nicely. Medication policy is up for a vote next month and will be distributed to the Private School Principals for approval from their governing bodies. Staff changes before end of FY13.

4. Communications: No report.

5. Old Business:

a) Hookah Lounge Educational Materials

The Director worked with our Health Educator to develop a fact sheet which is now on the town website. There was a brief discussion on if the board will proceed with amending the Public Health Code to add a section requiring the 10 points of the World Health Organization on a table placard or posted at the establishment.

6. New Business:

a) Consideration of the repeal one sentence of Section 15.6(n)1) of the Fairfield Public Health Code which reads: “No food or drink shall be prepared for service in an area the floor level of which is below the outside grade level.

This was discussed and voted on under 5 (B)**Below Grade Food Preparation.**

Being no further business, Dr. Braun motioned to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Blumenfeld at 8:25pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jude Fitzgerald
Secretary