

Acton Board of Health  
January 7, 2019

Members Present: Joanne Bissetta- Chairman, Michael Kreuze, William Taylor and Mark Conoby and Thomas Jacoby –Associate. William McInnis and Rekha Singh were not present.

Staff Present: Sheryl Ball- Health Director  
Weiyuan Sun- Health Administrator

Others Present: George Dimakarakos, Leo Bertolami, Paige Kelly, Isabella Harshbarger, Carolyn Platt and Peggy Mikkola

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m.

**Minutes**

On a motion made by Mr. Kreuze, seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Board of Health minutes dated November 19, 2018 with corrections.

**Utilize Water Use Records for Dentist- 107-115 Great Road**

The Health Department is in receipt of a request from Stamski and McNary, on behalf of applicant to allow the use of water flow records for a dentist located at 107-117 Great Road. The Board discussed this request and recommended approval due to the low use of water by dentists utilizing current water saving technology that is available. On a motion made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Conoby, the Board unanimously voted to approve the use of actual water flow records to allow for a dentist to occupy space at 107-115 Great Road with the following conditions:

1. Establishment water use records shall be submitted to the Health Department on a quarterly basis to ensure compliance with a review after 6 months.
2. The Board of Health may suspend or revoke approval should the use result in a threat or hazard to the public or environmental health.
3. The owner shall install separate water meters in all units to ensure compliance with permitted use.
4. A Title 5 inspection shall be conducted to ensure that the system is in passing condition.
5. A mercury and heavy metals separator shall be installed at the end of suction line in order to separate from water source and wastewater.

**Discussion- Carolyn Platt/Plastic Bag Ban**

The Board continued discussion from November regarding the proposed plastic bag ban for single use checkout bags. Ms. Platt stated that this ban impacts the public health. Ms. Platt pointed out that scientists have studied the breakdown of plastic bags into tiny toxic particles that contaminate the ecosystem such as ocean and soil. Ms. Platt also mentioned that 88 of 351 towns in Massachusetts have already banned “checkout bags” in retail businesses. With those 88 towns, the customers have used a reusable bag, a recyclable paper bag, or a compostable plastic bag. Ms. Kelly and Ms. Harshbarger, senior students from Acton-Boxborough Regional High School

conducted a survey for a project report of the customers in front of three supermarkets in Acton. Those results showed that 66% of customers used single use plastic checkout bags in 45 minute span. Ms. Platt also stated that she would like to apply grants to help supply reusable bags for residents in need. The Health Department has agreed to be the regulators for this ban. Ms. Ball will work closely with Ms. Platt on the wording for the proposed warrant article for April 2019 Town Meeting to ban the single use checkout bags in Acton.

#### **Discussion/Update for Motel License, Concordian-71 Hosmer Street**

The Health Department updated the Board regarding outstanding violations at the Concordian Motel located at 71 Hosmer St, Acton. There are several outstanding orders pertaining to trash, rubbish, infestation bedbugs and unsafe conditions of a swimming pool.

Since December 21, 2018, the Health Department has fined the owners of Concordian Motel \$350 for failure to correct these violations. Additional fines will continue to accrue on a weekly basis until these violations are corrected.

On January 7, 2019, the Health Department received many complaints of no hot water/heat. The Health Department inspected the facility and confirmed these complaints. The Health Department is concerned with the human habitability and State Sanitary Code for the residents of these units and is working with the owners to correct the outstanding violations.

Additionally, the Town Manager, John Mangiaratti has created a working group to help address many issues such as health, safety, building, welfare and peaceful quiet environment for the residents.

#### **Discussion- Retail Food Permits**

On September 12, 2018, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health amended 105 CMR 590.00: State Sanitary Code Chapter X: Minimum Sanitation Standards for Food Establishments to include sections of the 2013 FDA Food Code with amendments made by FDA in 2015. The amendments to 105 CMR 590.000 were published in the Massachusetts register on October 5, 2018 and became effective upon publication. The Health Department would like the board to amend this retail food permit into the board of health regulations to continue this permitting and inspection. A draft for discussion will be on a future agenda.

#### **Board Reorganization**

The board members would like to discuss reorganization when there is a full member attendance.

#### **Adjournment**

On a motion made by Mr. Kreuze, seconded by Mr. Conoby, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:01PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Weiyuan Sun  
Acton Board of Health



Joanne Bissetta - Chairman,  
Acton Board of Health