

Dracut Board of Health
Minutes
June 28, 2017

Present: Chairman, Evan Themeles, Vice Chairman, Dr. Lou Rousseau, Clerk, Paul Enis, Public Health Nurse, Cynthia Campbell and recording secretary, Marylee Enos. The meeting was held at the Town Hall, 62 Arlington St, Dracut, MA

Also present; Thomas Bomil

Ron Beauregard, Healthy Communities Tobacco Control Program

Dracut Water Supply District Commissioners, William Morin, William Zielenski, Robert Corey and DWSD Superintendent, Michael Sheu

Chairman, Evan Themeles called the meeting to order 5:00p.m.

Minutes:

Paul Enis made a motion to approve the June 19th, 2017 meeting minutes. Louis Rousseau, Seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Louis Rousseau made a motion to approve the May 30th, 2017 meeting minutes, Paul Enis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Nurses Report:

Ms. Campbell explained to the board she has set up the dates for the 2017 flu clinic, which will be Friday, October 13th 5:30 pm till 7:30 pm and Saturday, the 14th from 10:00 am till 12:00pm. We are keeping the same set up as last year, here at the Town Hall downstairs. Ms. Campbell stated, it was very successful last year here and with these hours.

Ms. Campbell had also reached out to Bethany Loveless from the Council on Aging to set up a date for the center and if we have enough doses, the Arbors were interested in us going by there.

Mr. Themeles asked how many doses will be having this year, Ms. Campbell stated she cut back a bit because there was some left over from last year. Ms. Campbell stated she can send that back for a credit but it cannot go back until July 30th.

Dracut Water Supply District, Fluoridation discussion:

Michael Sheu, Superintendent from DWSD came to the meeting along with the commissioners to give a presentation on the facts about fluoridation in the public water system.

The following points were presented to the board.

Mr. Sheu explained, the sodium fluoride is a by-product of fertilizer manufacturing. The source of sodium fluoride was provided by US manufactures, but mostly it's imported from China in recent years. We have experienced quality issues for the product that is imported from China.

This solubility of the sodium fluoride that is imported from China is poor. We have noticed there are significant sediments (impurities) on the bottom of our treatment tanks. This is a common problem among the PWSs in New England. We cannot find other US sodium fluoride vendors.

The U.S Public Health Service (PHS) made a recommendation in 2015 for the new optimal Fluoride concentration of 0.7 mg/L in public water system. The earlier PHS recommendation (1962) for fluoride concentrations was ranged from 0.7 -1.2 mg L. The data shows that fluorosis among children has increased.

The fluoride has been added into toothpaste, milk, and beverages in recent years. Water is not the only source of fluoride.

Once the fluoride is added into water, it will be difficult to remove it from the water. Once it gets into the environment, it will be absorbed by the plants and stay on earth. The background fluoride in the environment has increased from 0 mg/L to 0.2 mg/L

Mr. Sheu explained, with concerns about fluoridation related issues, we recommend the BOH review whether fluoridation is necessary in Dracut.

Chairperson, Evan Themeles thanked the commissioners for coming in and Superintendent, Mr. Sheu

Mr. Themeles and the board explained they will review and research the information on the fluoride and get back to them at one of our next meetings.

Master Planning Committee Representative:

Chairman, Evan Themeles explained he invited Mr. Bomil to come to this meeting to discuss his role as the representative for the Board of Health on the Master Planning Committee.

Mr. Themeles stated to Mr. Bomil he would like him to take notes and report back occasionally to keep the board informed. Mr. Themeles stated, he also wants the board to give their input when needed.

Mr. Bomil stated, he will report back and take notes.

New Business:

Chairperson Evan Themeles, explained the meetings will go on a summer schedule until September unless something comes up and we have to meet.

Old Business:

Ron Beauregard, from Health Communities came to the meeting to give an update on the packaging and selling of flavored vapor e cigarettes, there are flavors out there that are marketing to get the younger crowd such as mango, cotton candy, coconut, etc.

Because of this and because of some of the retailers that are in close proximity to schools, what the Healthy Communities Program is suggesting, is a proposed suggested amendment. The last revision that has already happened was three years ago.

The suggested amendment would be to restrict it not to eliminate it. What it would be

restricted to is what most people know as a smoke shop. There is one in Town already.

If this is something the board would entertain, this would be this type of an establishment that would be the primary purveyor of these kinds of products.

What the regulations would say in term of the restriction is; if you wanted to sell these thousands of flavors, you can, but these are the three things you can't have would be;

1. You can't sell anything that requires a food permit.
2. Its age restricted, only people that are 18 and older can be there.
- 3 The primary product there is tobacco or tobacco paraphernalia

By doing so you have limited the access, the advertisement, and the attraction in a convenience store where families with kids could go and you have dampened down the appeal of these Products.

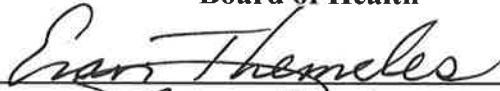
Mr. Themeles thanked Ron for coming in and explained the board will discuss this

Health Agents Report:

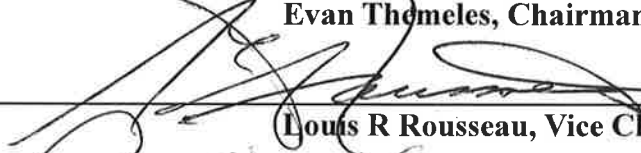
Mr. Mellin explained that the Mascuppic Beach had to be closed due to a high level of bacteria, it will be tested every day until the count goes down and it can reopen. Mr. Themeles asked if the water was murky. Mr. Mellin stated it was clear.

Paul Enis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 pm, seconded by Louis Rousseau the motion passed unanimously.

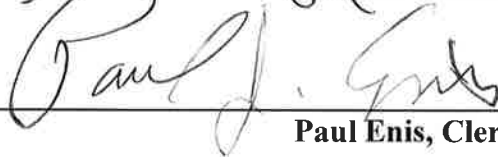
Board of Health



Evan Themeles, Chairman



Louis R Rousseau, Vice Chairman



Paul Enis, Clerk