

Town of Dover
Board of Health, May 14, 2007

The regular monthly meeting of the Dover Board of Health was held in Town Hall, 37 N. Sussex Street, Dover.

Board President Marie Hoffman called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and announced that the meeting complies with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act and has been duly advertised and posted.

Marie Hoffman, Board President, called the roll.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Marie Hoffman, Irene Hansen, Constance Sibona-Foster,
Sandra Scarneo

ABSENT: Donna Cook, Carolyn Blackman, Christopher Chapman

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor James Dodd
Patrick Donofrio, Alderman
Donald Costanzo, Health Officer

President Marie Hoffman called for a motion to accept the minutes from the April 2007 Regular Meeting of the Board of Health.

A motion to accept the minutes from the April 2007 Regular Meeting of the Board of Health was made by Sandra Scarneo and duly seconded by Marie Hoffman.

ALL AYES; NO NAYS

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Letter from National Pesticide Information Center to the HO dated 4/2/07; re: pesticide information.
2. Letter from LandAmerica Assessment Corp. to the HO dated 4/11/07; re: environmental assessment property information.
3. Letter from Medicare to the HO dated 4/12/07; re: Medicare claims.

President Hoffman asked if there was any correspondence to discuss. The HO responded no.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Health Officer (HO) distributed the summary of Health Department activities for the past month and distributed meeting schedules and contact lists to members of the board.

The HO raised the subject of Clean Communities Grant money that led to a general discussion of its use. In prior years grant money was used against the salary of a garbage code enforcement person. This year it may be used differently. Perhaps the funds can be used for the purchase of supplies for clean communities projects such as rakes, gloves, garbage bags, etc. or even the purchase of public receptacle which are very expensive.

Connie Foster asked how clean community funds are generated. The HO thought that a small part of garbage tipping fees went into a state fund. This led to a discussion of garbage tipping fees with Mayor Dodd explaining the new garbage contract to the Board.

An Influenza Surveillance report from the NJDHSS included with the monthly report indicates that the incidence of flu continues to be regional and sporadic. The flu season is over.

The “Dedication by Rider Resolution” to create a trust account for funds received for flu vaccinations was conditionally approved by the State. Only money *donated* to the health department (i.e. fundraising, etc.) can be deposited in the trust account. Medicare funds are reimbursements for expenses and can not be deposited in the trust account.

Sandra Scarneo questioned the monies generated from Medicare reimbursements as it related to the cost of the program. This led to a discussion of the net cost of conducting a flu clinic and a brief background as a Medicare provider with the understanding that not all program participants are Medicare eligible. Therefore, the health department is not reimbursed for every clinic attendee.

The HO provided Connie Foster with a copy of a garbage violation notice sent to 43 Orchard Street on May 1st at her request. Ms. Foster thanked the HO for sending the notification.

Connie Foster raised the subject of the food handling course stating that providing the course is a cost to the Town. Ms. Foster suggested that a fee be charged for attending the class.

The HO stated that such a fee would be difficult to administer. As an alternative, he suggested that food licensing fees be reviewed and possibly increased to reflect the additional cost of conducting a food handling program.

Mayor James Dodd asked if the food handler's course was mandatory. The HO responded affirmatively which led to a lengthy discussion of the food handling program, costs, and licensing fees.

The Board also discussed food inspection file management issues, procedures, re-inspection policies and enforcement actions used when deficiencies are cited. Mayor Dodd questioned the HO about enforcement policies regarding repeat offenders and court actions both commenting and placing particular emphasis on a zero tolerance approach to enforcement.

Sandra Scarneo suggested that after an initial inspection and a re-inspection have been conducted, an unannounced spot inspection be conducted a week or two later to determine that food operations remain satisfactory. The Board responded affirmatively.

The Mayor and Board discussed the monthly reporting of food inspections commenting on the need for more information. The HO was asked to expand the report showing dates of inspections, re-inspections and ratings. The HO will modify the monthly report to provide the Board with more inspection data. The Board also requested to see a sample of the inspection forms used by the health inspector at next month's meeting.

In other old business, Connie Foster asked the HO if he received any feedback from a letter that was sent to the Post Commander regarding smoking at the post. The HO stated that he had not heard anything. A discussion of this issue proceeded.

Mayor Dodd stated that the enforcement of the 'no smoking' rules of the State of New Jersey are the responsibility of the HO and, as such, must be enforced by the Health Officer. If smoking is a problem at the post, then it is up to the HO to issue a citation and take court action.

Sandra Scarneo concluded old business with a newspaper article about recycling in New Jersey. Since recycling was mandated 20 years ago, the percentage of recycling materials separated from regular trash has dropped from 67.1% to 34.3% . This led to a general discussion of recycling trends and local recycling issues.

NEW BUSINESS:

The HO reported the following upcoming programs:

- June 2: Cholesterol Screening Program
- June 7: Female Cancer Screening Program
- June 12: Male Cancer Screening Program

A hand-out of the Cholesterol Screening Program was distributed to the Board.

THE MEETING WAS OPENED TO MEMBERS OF THE BOARD WHO WISHED TO DISCUSS A PARTICULAR ISSUE.

Irene Hansen raised the subject of prescription medication awareness pointing out the serious problem of prescription medications abuse by teenagers. The abuse of prescription medications by teenagers has focused a lot of attention on the dangers of keeping, storing, securing and disposing of such medications commonly kept at home in the medicine cabinet so they do not get into the hands of children and teenagers.

Ms. Hansen stated the issue of prescription medication abuse was important to her and, in particular, the proper disposal of expired medications. Ms. Hansen questioned the feasibility of conducting a prescription drug disposal program.

A general discussion of the prescription drug issue proceeded and concluded with a request for more details concerning the coordination of a prescription drug disposal program for Dover residents. One suggestion made by Ms. Hansen was a prescription drug disposal service maintained at the health department for residents. The matter will be researched over the forthcoming weeks.

Mayor Dodd concluded this portion of the meeting with an overview of the Mayor's Wellness Campaign, a new state initiative to get communities on the path to active living and healthier lifestyles. The wellness campaign will kick-off this summer with a cook-off called the "Mayor's Healthiest Cook Off" to be held in Parsippany in early June. This will be followed by other programs that are designed to improve health through exercise, eating properly and living healthier and better lives.

THE MEETING WAS OPENED TO MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC WHO WISHED TO DISCUSS A PARTICULAR ISSUE.

No members of the general public were present.

Board President Marie Hoffman thanked Mayor Dodd for attending and participating in the evening's meeting and entertained a motion to adjourn.

Upon completion of the public portion of the meeting, President Marie Hoffman entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. **A motion to adjourn the meeting** was made by Sandra Scarneo and seconded by Irene Hansen.

ALL AYES; NO NAYS

MEETING ADJOURNED