

BOARD OF HEALTH
Hearing Room, Second Floor, City Hall: 210 Main Street
April 19, 2018 Minutes

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

BOH Members Absent: William Hargraves

Staff: Merridith O’Leary, Director; Melissa Roberts-Cote, BOH Clerk; and Jennifer Meyer, Public Health Nurse

Staff Absent: None

Meeting opened April 19, 2018 at 5:30 pm by Joanne Levin

I. Public Comment Session: No Public Comments.

II. Review Minutes

A. Meeting Minutes from March 15, 2018

Motion: Approved: Motion made by Suzanne Smith to accept the March 15, 2018 minutes as written, seconded by Cynthia Suopis. Joanne Levin abstained. Vote (2-0).

III. Discussion: Massachusetts Association Health Boards (MAHB) Placeholder Recreational Retail Marijuana Regulation

MAHB wrote draft recreational retail marijuana regulation for local Boards of Health to use as a template. Director O’Leary provided the Board with the draft which included her recommendations. The Boards discussion focused on the dosing limits of active THC in multi-serving edibles, minimum legal age, permitting, compliance, inspections, and establishments with the sale of other non-marijuana retail products. The public health nurse, Jennifer Meyer attended the MAHB conference on March 27, 2018 where Cheryl Sbarra, J.D. (Director of Policy and Law for MAHB) provided guidance and a check list to identify which issues local Boards of Health may want to proceed with creating local regulation. The Board agreed that there needs to be local control on some aspects of retail marijuana and will move forward on drafting local regulations. In order to craft evidence based regulations, the Board has decided to divvy up the research and add three more BOH meetings to the schedule between May and June.

IV. Discussion: Northampton Tobacco Regulations to Include Smoke-Free Downtown

The Board of Health is considering amending the Regulation of the City of Northampton Board of Health Prohibiting Smoking in Workplaces and Public Places to include prohibiting smoking in the Northampton Central Business District and the Florence General Business District. Director O’Leary informed the Board that Mayor Narkewicz supports this initiative.

Director O’Leary provided maps that outlined the Florence and Northampton Business District and also identified possible designated smoking areas. Director O’Leary will speak

to the Mayor about creating a subcommittee to help identify designated smoking areas. Departments that should be involved should include; economic development, planning, DPW, Police and perhaps a representative from the pan handling committee. Director O'Leary also will reach out to District Court to ensure that tickets will be upheld in the court system.

V. Department Updates:

Public Health Nurse, Jennifer Meyer reported that the number of flu cases for 2017/2018 season are down almost by half from previous years.

Meeting Closed: Motion to Close Meeting: Motion made to close the Board of Health Meeting by Suzanne Smith seconded by Cynthia Suopis all in favor (3-0)

Meeting closed at 8:50 PM.

The next scheduled Board of Health Meeting: May 10, 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
- March 15, 2018
- Draft Board of Health Regulation Marijuana Establishments and the Sale of Marijuana
- Draft Host Regulation for the Town of Plainfield
- Draft Host Regulation for the Town of Millbury
- Draft Host Regulation for the Town of Salisbury
- Regulation of the City of Northampton Board of Health Prohibiting Smoking in Workplaces and Public Places.
- 2017/2018 Influenza Report