

## **NORTHAMPTON BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES**

**January 20, 2011**

On this date a meeting was held at the City Hall Hearing Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 210 Main St.

Present: Donna Salloom, Chair, Suzanne Smith, M.D., Joanne Levin, M.D.

Ben Wood, Director; Heather McBride, Clerk

At 5:30 pm Chairperson Donna Salloom called the meeting to order.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No public comment

### **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

Joanne Levin moved and Suzanne Smith seconded to approve the minutes from the December 16th meeting pending the correction of the spelling of Joanne Levin's name. All voted in favor.

### **PARADISE CITY TAVERN VARIANCE REQUEST**

- Ben Wood explained that the Board was being asked to make a recommendation to the Board of State Examiners of Plumbers and Gasfitters pertaining to a request for variance from the State Plumbing Code requested by William Collins for Paradise City Tavern, 1 Bridge Street. Mr. Collins has asked for the variance based on spatial hardship contending that he is unable to meet the state requirements for bathroom fixtures based on occupancy in the existing building.
- Joanne Levin pointed out that the Building Inspector has granted them a temporary stay based on the added use of the basement bathroom until January 31, 2011 and asked if the proposed variance addresses the permanent conversion of the basement bathroom for customer use.
- Ben Wood explained that it was his understanding that the basement bathroom was actually already included in the assessment of occupancy of 110. They are proposing occupancy of 180.
- Suzanne Smith made a motion not to support the variance and moved that the board expects Paradise City Tavern to adhere to the approved of occupancy of 110 including continued use of basement bathroom as stated by the Building Department. Mr. Collins is free to pursue additional options for expansion of space to add bathrooms and increase occupancy.

- Donna Salloom seconded and all approved.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### 1. Regionalization continuing discussion

- Ben Wood stated that the Regionalization Committee of him, Davio Danielson, Christine Sass and Julie Federman will be applying for a planning grant covering all of Hampshire County. Northampton will be the fiscal home of the grant, if awarded. Letters of support are being gathered from the towns and have been submitted by most towns. The next step is to collect select data from the towns and look at shared service models. A consultant will then be hired to verify and consolidate data and facilitate meetings. The proposal deadline is February 28, 2011.

### 2. Boston Public Health Grant

- Donna Salloom stated that she and the Northampton team will be attending training on January 24 and 25<sup>th</sup> to look at public policy and its approaches to Access to Healthy Food. She explained that in Northampton, we are already moving forward on many of the recommendations including supporting Farmers Markets to accept SNAP and working with the public schools to make healthy foods available at lunch.
- Ben Wood added that the team is on the agenda for the next School Committee meeting to request that the schools adopt a series of principals, for example, lower saturated fat content, low salt, and whole wheat items.
- Ben Wood reported that the Board of Health will be hiring, through the grant, a mentor for the Northampton Public School Food Services Director.
- Wayne Feiden, Planning Department will be comparing city ordinances, policies and regulations against a series of best practices in access to healthy food. This effort will form the basis of a series of health impact assessments to help the city decide if any existing policies need to be changed.

### 3. Hiring Update

- Ben Wood explained that fulfilling all of the qualifications that are desired for the inspector position is proving to be extremely difficult. He explained that he had evaluated the current practice of contracting an outside person to do the Septic/Title V evaluations and found that this could be an economical choice going forward. This could change the focus of the inspector position qualifications.
- Discussion of how to proceed with existing and new candidates. A decision was reached to conduct 1<sup>st</sup> interviews with the new candidates and to then conduct a field test with the top 3.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### 1. Racing Mart

- Ben Wood notified the board that Racing Mart was in the process of being sold. He added that this could affect the way the board chose to carry out its 3<sup>rd</sup> Violation Tobacco Hearing pending against this vendor.
- Suzanne Smith stated that the board should not go forward with the hearing but that the new owners should be notified about the previous violations and warned that this is a one time courtesy. Also that if Racing Mart's current owner applied for a tobacco license in the future, the hearing be reinstated. All agreed.

### 2. Solid Waste Transfer Stations

- Ben Wood explained that regarding the changes that the MA Department of Environmental Protection has made increasing the responsibilities of the Board of Health for both issuing site suitability reports and for permitting small scale transfer stations, the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District had written a very well crafted letter of protest. He suggested that the Northampton Board of Health add their support to this letter.
- Suzanne Smith stated that she would be willing to craft a letter of support to be added to the Franklin letter. All agreed.

### 3. Florence Casket Company

- Ben Wood stated that he would like the board to consider a final resolution to the issue of the Casket Company.
- Suzanne Smith asked what the health issue is surrounding the problem. She explained that she understood the nuisance issue but thought that the business had been cleared by OSHA, DEP, and the EPA of health related risks. She continued by asking that if OSHA has ruled that employees are in no danger than how can we assume that the neighbors are?
- Ben Wood said that there are different standards based on business vs. residential and also different regulatory bodies involved. He also agreed with Dr. Smith that we do not have any data which supports a public health risk concerning the company. Mr. Wood suggested that the board add it to a future agenda and inform the company so that they can attend. All agreed.

Donna Salloom adjourned the meeting at 7:10pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Heather McBride