



Town of Danvers Board of Health

1 Sylvan Street, Danvers, Massachusetts 01923
p: (978) 777-0001 x. 3022 | f: (978) 762-0215

www.danversma.gov/departments/health-department/

Dr. Thomas McLaughlin, MD
Dutrochet Djoko, PharmD
Sheila Laffy

Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2023

All members of the Board were in attendance and staff members Judith Ryan, Public Health Nurse; Frank Giacalone, Director of Public Health, Breanna Livingstone, Health Sanitarian/Inspector and Alicia Linehan, Clerk.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE

- 1.1 Notice of the meeting as posted by the Town Clerk.
- 1.2 Minutes from March 9, 2023, were approved as written.

2. NEW BUSINESS

2.1 Styrofoam Ban

Bob Gamer and Linda Leonard were present and told the Board that they were told by a Select Board member to proceed and bring this before the Select Board, they would require a recommendation from the Board of Health. The question was asked what type of recommendation they would be looking for from the Board. The recommendation would be to ban Styrofoam in local restaurants.

Djoko researched this topic. It appears that there are more than one hundred cities/towns in eleven states so far that have taken steps to ban Styrofoam. It also appears 2.3 million tons of Styrofoam end up in the trash every day. It is noted that this material is bad for the environment, especially for children if placed in their mouths. However, Djoko is concerned about taking steps to ban it. As bad as it is for the environment, it doesn't appear we are giving people an alternative. He also visited some restaurants and was told that this would be costly for the small family-owned restaurants. The larger chains could afford to switch over to other more expensive materials such as paper. But if banning these items, it would apply to all. And there is the enforcement issue. And this does not solve the problem of items received through external vendors that pack items with Styrofoam, or grocery stores that pack meats/vegetables in Styrofoam trays. Djoko stated that this would be placing an unfair burden on the small Danvers businesses, and the banning would outweigh the risks.

The suggestion from the Board is to contact State Legislation and let them know this is something we want to do as a statewide effort. They agree that Styrofoam is not good for the environment but there must be a larger effort and alternatives need to be given to businesses. The Board is willing to discuss providing a letter of support to the state.

Gamer and Leonard told the Board that Marblehead had banned Styrofoam.

Giacalone will reach out to the Marblehead Public Health Director to confirm their banning of Styrofoam and the steps they took.



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3. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Infectious Diseases

Hepatitis B – 1 case

Norovirus – reaching out to one of the communities to be sure they are reporting cases.

Influenza – 1 case, B case (child)

Lyme Disease – 1 case, ticks are supposed to be bad this year due to the mild weather.

Coronavirus – 107 cases

Dr. McLaughlin told the Board that there is a big increase in invasive strep throat cases. Nurse Ryan stated that the nurses in other communities have already seen the increase, so only a matter of time before Danvers experiences this. Sometimes the symptoms are just a cough and runny nose.

Nurse Ryan's community involvement:

- Will be conducting an education session at the Healthy Kids event on April 29th. Bringing the bite lab, teachings about ticks and mosquitos.
- Ryan met with John Somes, CEO of Danvers YMCA, Dave Thomson from DanversCARES and a few others to offer ideas on how the YMCA could spend the Bureau Substance Addiction Services Grant money received.
- Someone from Danvers High School reached out to request some assistance with addiction education.
- Diaper drive is up and running, two boxes received from the YMCA. Flyers have been posted and displayed on social media. Waiting to hear back from Salem News on running an ad in the newspaper. Essex Tech is involved, some of the Danvers schools are also interested in participating.
- Meets every month for the North Shore mother visits.
- Invitation was sent to Covid clinic volunteers for the event on May 23, 2023.
- Has been distributing Covid test kits, but Public Health just received another 4,000 kits.
- An individual who lost a friend to drugs, wants to assist with the distribution of fentanyl strips.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



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Breanna Livingstone provided an update:

- As of the end of March there have been about 123 out of 200 food establishments inspected. There are new establishments preparing to open – Modern Butcher, iPazzi, and Johnny’s Roast Beef.
- Blu Karma will be renovated at the end of the month.
- Pool permits will be renewed soon, and inspections conducted.
- Livingstone wants to create a permit fillable form on the website. Need to schedule a training session with the Website team.
- Conducted tanning inspections – only 2 permits in Danvers.
- Livingstone will be working with tattoo permitting more.
- One establishment has required three inspection visits when it shouldn’t take more than two visits. Depending on the severity of violation, they should be required to hire a consultant to assist with training.

5. HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Meeting monthly to assist with abandoned properties.

The Opioid Grant was taken off the warrant for Town Meeting. The Finance Director stated that the Governor may sign off on a bill that will make it easier to access these funds.

6. GENERAL BOARED OF HEALTH DISCUSSION

Add to the next agenda:

- Styrofoam discussion and how to move forward. Maybe draft a letter to the State Legislatures.
- Inspection violations

With no further business at hand, the Board adjourned at 7:24pm

Respectfully submitted for your approval,

Frank Giacalone



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