



Robert F. Sullivan
MAYOR

City of Brockton

Health Department

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Dr. Eno Mondesir
EXECUTIVE HEALTH OFFICER

BOH: Minutes from the Board Meeting on OCTOBER 6, 2022

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:31. The Members in attendance: Board Chairperson, Dr. Brophy, Fr. Fiske, Eno Mondesir (Exec. Health Officer, Ex. Officio); Mr. Jim Berish, a 711business owner (located at 1041 Pearl St. Brockton) was invited to this meeting, Inspector James Doucette also joined; Dr. Andrade notified the Board of his absence.

I briefly welcomed the members and then introduced Dr. Brophy who led the meeting. The minutes from prior Board meeting were presented to the Board. Then, Dr. Brophy made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Fiske seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve them.

Dr. Brophy has made a motion to include a separate item on the agenda, and Mr. Fiske seconded.

LIFE SCIENCE: Pertaining to the NIH Guidelines for Recombinant DNA (rDNA) Project, which was introduced to the Board by Mr. Rob May and Mr. John Fay (both from the City's Department of Planning and Development), is under review by the Directors of the BOH. We had the opportunity to speak with Steven Lee, a consultant who works with other Municipalities that take on such project. Dr. Brophy, Chairperson of the BOH and I (Eno Mondesir) met with him, and we were pleased with the information that he provided to us. Our next step is to consult with the personnel of the Sister Cities or Municipalities that have already embraced rDNA project in order to learn from them on the steps that they have implemented. That way, we will not have to reinvent the wheel. Once we have a chance to speak with the other Cities, the Directors of the BOH will make the determination on how to move forward.

New Tobacco License in the City: At the Board's last meeting, Attorney McClusky's Law firm who represented a business owner in Brockton, introduced a request for a "Tobacco License" to the BOH Directors on behalf of his client. The Directors heard the argument from the attorney. It was determined that BOH will

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do the due diligence by reviewing the Ordinances that were passed on New Tobacco Licenses by the City Council to see what legal provisions that were adopted. After revising the Ordinance, it is clear that: No new tobacco permits would be issued in the City. It was further determined that any tobacco permit that expired, would not be renewed, according to the standing ordinances. Hence, the Directors determine that they cannot issue any new tobacco license at this point and the BOH will write a letter to the attorney to notify the business owner of the decision.

Request for a variance on “Dumpster”: The Directors heard Mr. Jim Berish, owner of a store located at 1041 Pearl Street, Brockton. The owner submitted a request to BOH, requesting a variance to keep his dumpster open. At the hearing, the BOH Directors brought to bare that it is in the language of the City ordinances: “Dumpsters must be enclosed”. One Board of Health Code Enforcement inspector attended the hearing quoted the ordinance 8-11 which requires that dumpsters remain enclosed. Therefore, the Board voted to deny the request to issue a variance.

COVID-19 Update: I, Eno Mondesir provided the latest COVID-19 Statistics to the Directors. I spoke of the prevalence of COVID-19 in Brockton, and the DPH reclassification of death-related to COVID-19. Then, I highlighted for the Directors the ongoing vaccination campaign in the City by the BOH Public Health Nurses. Dr. Brophy asked if BOH/Nurses provide both flu and COVID-19 vaccine to everyone at our clinic.

I replied to Dr. Brophy that: unfortunately, we are allowed a limited amount of flu vaccine, and therefore BOH is restricted in the number of flu vaccine that it can offer to specific demographic. On the other hand, I indicated that BOH receives ample amount of COVID-19 vaccines, “Monovalent and Bivalent” doses and the Nurses continue to set up clinics throughout the City to help vaccinate the residents.

Dr. Brophy: after I provided the COVID-19 update, Dr. Brophy asked if there were any questions by other Directors. At that, Mr. Fiske answered that the information presented was valuable, and that he did not have any further comment or questions.

I further elaborated that BOH is pushing to make COVID-19 vaccine available to the people in Brockton. For example, the Public Health Nurses have been administering vaccine in various locations. Under DPH contract, Brewster’s Ambulance continues to vaccinate at the Shaw’s Center once a week: every

Saturday, from 7:00 AM to 3PM; while BOH vaccinates at the same location every Tuesday, from 2:00 to 7:00 PM.

PCR testing site in the City: under an MOU with the City of Brockton, Curative, Inc., has been testing at a trailer at the Shaw's Center.

Symposium by the BOH: I updated the Directors on the symposium initiated by the BOH on September 24. About 100 people attended the event. We emphasized the mental component that was highlighted by DMH Commissioner, Brooke Doyle, and many others. Dr. Brophy commented that mental health needs have exacerbated by COVID-19.

Miscellaneous: "Function Halls": The issue around the opening of Function Halls in the City has been raised. It has been brought to the attention of the BOH that several Function Halls are about to open up in Brockton. Among the questions raised at the meeting include: should the Function Halls be licensed by BOH? The BOH Directors answer, saying: that the answer is not a clear cut, like one size fits all.

One Member of the Board mentioned that he noticed that during funeral services, people look for function hall to socialize and have repast. Mr. Fiske said that he has observed that during Funeral arrangements, many families look to a Function Hall for better accommodation.

One statement that stemmed from the meeting is that, if food is being served at a Function Hall, probably, a licensed caterer is hired to serve. Another discussion was: does the Function Hall have a kitchen? If so, then it certainly would require a permit from the BOH to operate it. In conclusion, the issue is: does the Function Hall has a kitchen or no kitchen...? That will determine if a permit is warranted.

Closing the Meeting: As the meeting draws to an end, Dr. Brophy motioned to adjourned. Mr. Fiske seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 PM. The next Board meeting is scheduled for November 3, 2022.