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Emmett Lyman
Michael Maniscalco
Kate Morris



DIRECTOR of HEALTH
Russell Melmed, MPH

Colchester, East Haddam, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough, & Portland

Board of Health
August 27, 2019, 1:00 PM
East Hampton Town Hall, 20 E. High St. East Hampton, CT.

Present: Andrew Tierney Stan Soby Emmett Lyman
 Kate Morris Peter Hughes

Staff: Russell Melmed

1. Call to order

Chairman Tierney called this regularly scheduled meeting to order at 1:04pm.

2. Public Remarks

There were no comments from the public.

Motion was made by Ms. Bransfield, seconded by Mr. Soby, to add agenda item 3.c. FOI 54 Walnut Avenue East Hampton. Vote was unanimous in favor.

3. Communications

a. EEE Press Release

Mr. Melmed stated that he received notification from CT Department of Agriculture and Department of Public Health of a horse in Colchester that died of EEE. Mr. Melmed stated that he prepared a press release to notify the public and steps to prevent disease transmission from mosquitos for immediate release.

b. Hearing Notification

Mr. Melmed stated that a hearing was held with Sherlock Grill in East Haddam due to a second failed inspection. The issue had been cold holding. The units had been serviced and temperatures have been being recorded in an effort to correct the issue.

All previous establishments in which hearings have been held have complied with corrective action plans.

c. FOI 54 Walnut Avenue East Hampton

Mr. Melmed stated that a neighbor of 54 Walnut Avenue had been trying to gain assistance from the building department regarding the dilapidated conditions of the property for a couple of years. Recently the neighbor contacted the District regarding possible asbestos shingles. Mr. Mitchell had been in contact with the neighbor and had been working with the property owner.

The shingles have been removed. The FOI request was for correspondence regarding the complaint. The FOI request has been satisfied. Members of the Board expressed concern for the municipal departments to exercise their authority/jurisdiction regarding this matter.

4. Director of Health Report

a. Written report sent in advance

Attached.

b. Questions

Mr. Hughes requested that quarterly a financial report be provided. Chairman Tierney suggested contacting Town of East Hampton regarding an appointment to Mr. Maniscalco's vacant position on the Board.

Brief discussion was held regarding the SolAware units placed throughout the District. Mr. Melmed stated that due to a few issues with installation (delays and logo labeling) this year there was no charge for the units.

5. Old Business

There was no old business discussed.

6. New Business

Discussion was held regarding lease options, the current term, and centralization. Mr. Melmed stated that a potential option financially did not seem financially beneficial for the District at this time and he would like to research the effects of centralizing the offices.

Concern was expressed for the lack of District staffing within the land use department in the Town of East Hampton, the potential lost revenue, and delayed or missed reviews of applications and projects. Mr. Melmed stated that he will soon be meeting with the new Town Manager and will discuss these issues.

Interviews for the Environmental Technician position are currently being held.

Discussion was held regarding housing codes and lack of housing codes. Two of the six towns within the District have housing codes. Mr. Mitchell was previously working toward establishing a District housing code (with the International Property Maintenance Code).

Discussion was held regarding the upcoming retirement of Don Mitchell and working to fill his position as soon as possible. Concern was expressed to ensure coverage in towns where activities are higher.

Discussions were held regarding the difficulty in attracting qualified individuals. Discussion included work hours compared to other health departments/salaries/benefits, training, qualification standards, etc.

7. Approval of July 30, 2019 meeting minutes

Motion was made by Ms. Bransfield, seconded by Mr. Hughes, to approve the minutes of July 30, 2019 as written. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Suggestion was made to hold a planning meeting to discuss further some of the personnel issues that Mr. Melmed had identified, outside of a regular Board meeting or committee meeting.

Mr. Melmed briefly discussed the status of the testing of Lake Pocotopaug and the inconsistency of laboratory testing. Mr. Melmed suggested that visual observation may be the best way to determine closure in the future.

8. Public Remarks

There were no comments from the public.

9. Adjournment

Following no further business to discuss motion was made by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Ms. Morris, to adjourn the meeting. Vote was unanimous in favor. Meeting adjourned at 2:00pm.

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Director of Health Report: July, 2019

Administration

We have received 8 applications for the open Environmental Technician position, and new applications will stop being accepted on 7/26/2019. The individual we hire will be someone who is capable of becoming certified to do food service inspections in the first two years of employment. They would primarily conduct salon/cosmetology inspections once those regulations are adopted, B100a reviews, and complaint investigations while working towards certification.

Our Emergency Preparedness funding from the state no longer permits any funds to be used on emergency communications. This means that our Everbridge system must be funded out of our core budget, or be phased out in favor of the system currently offered by the CROG, called Veoci. While Everbridge has been useful for CHD, and some of our member towns also make use of the system for their own purposes, we must look into whether it continues to make sense to pay for a system when there are similar, cost-neutral options available.

Salon licensing will begin in August. We have decided to prorate the license fees so that re-licensure will commence on July 1st of 2020 in order to align the licensing process with the beginning of the fiscal year.

CHD operated at a slight surplus in the last fiscal year (approximately \$26,000 - final number to be determined), due in large part to a staff person being hired at a lower level than budgeted, an unanticipated staff departure, and utilization of part-time food service inspection services below expected levels.

Environmental Health

We are in the midst of temporary event and farmers' market season. Preparations are underway for the largest of these events, the Hebron Harvest Fair, which is scheduled to take place during the first week of September. This is an "all hands on deck" event for our staff, which will be inspecting dozens of food service booths to ensure they are operating safely.

Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) testing of Lake Pocotopaug is ongoing. Results from our official laboratory, Northeast Labs, have been steadily rising, and we are now expediting testing in order to get

results both more frequently, and with faster turnaround. We continue with split sample testing for program evaluation purposes.

We are developing our application packets for salons, which will be sent out in August.

With Melissa Pierce's departure, and our future new hire unlikely to be certified to conduct food service inspections soon, we are having all of our sanitarians increase slightly the number of food service inspections they are each responsible for conducting. While we do not anticipate this leading to significant delays in the performance of other environmental health services, we will be monitoring the effect this has on customer service.

Health Education and Health Promotion

Blood Pressure monitoring clinics scheduled at the East Haddam, East Hampton, Marlborough and Portland Senior Centers continue to go well.

Partnership with the Hebron Senior Center- CHD supplied the Hebron Senior Center with educational flyers and a poster on skin cancer awareness. There is a collaborative effort between CHD and Hebron Senior Center to find a doctor to donate time to offer skin cancer screenings at the center.

SolAWARE, the start-up company that has designed a unit that is put into the community to promote sun safety, continues to have setbacks related to assembly, delivery, and deployment. Portland has received their unit, currently standing outside the senior center and adjacent to a playground. Other towns are next on the list to receive theirs, but have yet to. The company has sent CHD a letter, stating that they will supply us the units at no cost this year because of the delays.

Live Well Workshops include Chronic Disease Self Management Program (CDSMP), Diabetes Self Management Program (DSMP) and Chronic Pain Self Management Program (CPSMP). These workshops run for 6 weeks for 2.5 hours each workshop. The evidence-based programming teaches strategies to help individuals dealing with chronic diseases and pain to self-manage their disease to feel better and enjoy life to the fullest. The workshop is also open to caretakers. CHD has conducted three workshops since April:

- CDSMP at the East Haddam Senior Center from April 24-May 29. There were 19 participants.
- DSMP at the Marlborough Senior Center from June 18-July 23. There were 7 participants.
- A CPSMP started at the Colchester Senior Center on July 24 and will run through August 28. There are 14 participants.