

Acton Board of Health

March 24, 2008

Members Present: William Taylor, Chairman, Joanne Bissetta, Vice Chairman, William McInnis, Member, Pam Harting-Barrat, Member, Phil Alvarez, Associate voting for Mark Conoby and Joseph Ianelli, Associate.

Staff Present: Doug Halley, Health Director and Sheryl Ball.

Others Present: Peggy Mikkola, representative for league of women voters, Matt Smith and Gladys Fox.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m.

Minutes

On a motion made by Mr. McInnis, seconded by Ms. Bissetta, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Board of Health minutes dated March 10, 2008 as amended.

Discussion – Medical Reserve Corp. Planning Committee:

Mr. Halley stated that in 2005, Ms. Kim Shea from the intern program at Boston University (BU) started up the Medical Reserve Corp. Planning Committee (MRCPC). The MRCPC was developed to service the people who may need services in the event of an emergency. Recently another intern, Judy Gaughan, also from the BU intern program has begun working on activating this committee by working on identifying all the potential issues including setting up an inoculation center and has selected professionals in the community to help address these needs. Mr. Halley is before the Board this evening to update them on the interns work and the health department progress. Dr. Harting-Barrat stated that there should be a greater outreach to all the volunteers and that we should be in touch with them more. Dr. Harting-Barrat also stated that meetings should occur more frequently. It was also stated that all potential areas where an emergency could occur should be focused on and that too much focus is on the pandemic flu. The Board also discussed the Incident Command Training and that we should try to encourage

more volunteers to attend these trainings. The Board also felt it was important to engage in a training exercise. Mr. Halley stated that he would like double the amount of volunteers that we currently have.

Housing Appeal – 264 Central Street

The Health Department conducted an inspection at the request of the tenant at the property located at 264 Central Street, Apt. 9. During the course of inspection there was an area with pooling water on the floor in the storage area adjacent to the unit. Under the Housing Code chronic dampness is a violation and the landlord was cited. The landlord was present to appeal the order, however, the tenant was not. The landlord, Ms. Gladys Fox stated that her father owned this building and it was passed onto her approximately 10 years ago. Ms. Fox stated that the Health Department was contacted to conduct an inspection after a huge rainstorm and further stated that the space in question is not technically his space as it is not in his lease. Ms. Fox further stated there is a sump pump in the basement that has been replaced and is properly maintained. The Board stated that the Health Department does have a pending order and will need to re-inspect the area to make sure there is no standing water present. On a motion made by Mr. McInnis, seconded by Ms. Bissetta, the Board unanimously voted to deny the appeal and to uphold the Health Department's findings. The Board further instructed the Health Department to schedule a re-inspection.

Other

- Mr. Halley explained that there is a petition on the town meeting warrant to hire a community services coordinator. The petition was spearheaded in part by the United Way. Both the Selectmen and the Finance Committee have deferred recommendation as there is no money in the budget for this service. The proponents of the article have not interacted with the Health Department but Mr. Halley feels that this would be something that the Health Department could finance through the nursing service enterprise fund for a one year period. Mr. Halley feels that this is a great idea and within the general role of the Board of Health.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Mr. McInnis, seconded by Ms. Bissetta, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheryl Ball, Health Secretary
Acton Board of Health

William Taylor, Chairman
Acton Board of Health