

**Town of Dover
Board of Health, March 13, 2006**

The regular monthly meeting of the Dover Board of Health was held in Town Hall, 37 N. Sussex Street, Dover.

Board President Marie Hoffman called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and announced that the meeting complies with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act and has been duly advertised and posted.

Donna Cook, Secretary, called the roll.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Jean Cater, Donna Cook, Constance Sibona-Foster,
Marie Hoffman, Sandra Scarneo, Christopher Chapman

ABSENT: Carolyn Blackman

ALSO PRESENT: Donald Costanzo, Health Officer
Frank Poolas, Alderman

President Hoffman called for a motion to accept the minutes from the February 2006, Regular Meeting of the Board of Health.

Jean Cater stated that in the minutes under new business, she introduced the "File of Life" program and Connie Foster introduced the "Vial of Life" program.

A motion to accept the minutes from the February 2006 Regular Meeting of the Board of Health subject to the above-mentioned correction was made by Connie Foster and duly seconded by Christopher Chapman.

ALL AYES; NO NAYS

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Letter from Dr. Robert & Kathryn Zufall to the HO dated 2/6/; re: thank you.
2. Letter from NACCHO to the HO dated 2/17; re: call for nominations.

President Hoffman asked if there was any correspondence to discuss. The HO briefly mentioned the letter from the Zufall's thanking the community for the support of the clinic.

OLD BUSINESS:

The HO also distributed the summary of Health Department activities for the previous month and discussed with the Board various parts of the report.

Garbage tonnage for February 2006 was 383.13 tons; down from the same month one-year ago by 18.92 tons or 4.7%.

Garbage sticker receipts for February 2006 were \$2,290.00; up from the same month one-year ago by \$504.50 or 28.3%.

The HO commented that garbage tonnage decrease was relatively small compared to the remarkable 28.3% increase in sticker sales.

Regarding past discussions of the First Street Apartments, the HO mentioned the Code Enforcement Department's recent surprise inspections and enforcement initiatives of the apartment complex that resulted in large fines. Sandra Scarneo pointed out that the fines were levied against tenants; not the landlord. The landlord's case comes before the court on March 21st.

The HO reported to Jean Cater that a public receptacle was placed on Prospect Street just before the railroad overpass as previously discussed. Through the efforts of Alderman Poolas, a public receptacle located far behind the Dover Park Plaza Condo complex near the train station wasn't being used adequately and was relocated to Prospect Street.

The HO distributed "food handler" ordinance information. The sample ordinances require restaurant owners or their representatives to attend an annual food handler's course. The HO stated that some sample ordinances were very detailed and burdensome to enforce and that he was concerned that department resources were inadequate to enforce such an ordinance.

This led to a lengthy discussion of the food handler's ordinance. Connie Foster suggested there were ways to streamline the food handler's course requirement to make it manageable.

Chris Chapman suggested that a food handler might be able to attend a similar program in a nearby town that would satisfy the intent of the requirement.

Alderman Poolas suggested making a training video that a food handler can view and take a test. In this manner the training can be administered more frequently and easily.

The HO stated he will submit to the Board in draft form a Food Handler's Ordinance that incorporates what was discussed at the April 10th meeting.

At last month's meeting the Board requested the HO to gather information on the "File of Life" and "Vial of Life" programs. As it turned out, Alderman Jim Visioli was aware of the program because it was brought to his attention by Connie Foster and the article in the newspaper.

The HO contacted Saint Clare's Hospital, Community Outreach, and they are interested in participating in the Vial of Life program as well. The vials or packets, with decal & magnet, cost approximately \$3 per person. There is a chance that a grant can be obtained from WalMart or that the hospital might pick-up the cost. The HO will be discussing the details of the program with Saint Clare's in the near future.

Jean Cater and the Board preferred the "File of Life" program that used a magnetic packet that was placed on the outside of the refrigerator door; not inside the refrigerator. The HO stated that Vial of Life containers can be placed on the outside of the refrigerator door as well. It is just a matter of style and choice. The intent of the program remains the same.

The Board felt that the Vial/File of Life program should not only target senior citizens but people on chronic medications and people in need as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

The HO reported that he has a budget meeting with the administrator and finance committee on Wednesday. The health department's budget was amended to include the following sub-accounts: animal control (\$35K), veterinary services (\$9k), and sanitation expenses (\$1.5k). Other sub-accounts have been reorganized or renamed to eliminate confusion.

Jean Cater asked if the health department was getting any funding for more help. The sub-accounts incorporated into the budget were operating expenses only.

A discussion of animal control commenced with questions from Sandra Scarneo about emergency response time and quality control issues related to animal control. Connie Foster felt that the Board should see animal control reports at future meetings. The Board concurred. The HO will provide the Board with animal control reports at forthcoming meetings.

In other new business Connie Foster stated that the news media reported a rise in bedbug infestations nationwide. Ms. Foster related this national issue to the recent court action with Dover Hills Apartments involving a female defendant that complained to the judge about a bedbug infestation in her apartment. She had many bites on her legs from the bedbugs. Ms. Foster felt that this was a health issue that should be addressed.

The HO responded that a bedbug infestation in an apartment came under the jurisdiction or authority of the Code Enforcement Department. Bedbugs, like rodents and cockroaches, are vermin. Under the Property Maintenance Code, the Code Enforcement Department can order a landlord to professionally exterminate the premises for vermin.

This led to a general discussion of bedbugs and head lice in the schools and in housing environments.

President Hoffman asked Alderman Poolas if he wished to comment on any matter or issue. Alderman Poolas responded that the Board of Aldermen is researching ordinances that restricted or prohibited the outdoor use of indoor furniture such as sofas and chairs. This was in response to complaints that indoor furniture used outside on porches and lawns created unsightly conditions and a nuisance.

**THE MEETING WAS OPENED TO MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC
WHO WISHED TO DISCUSS A PARTICULAR ISSUE.**

No members of the general public were present.

Upon completion of the public portion of the meeting, President Marie Hoffman entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. **A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sandra Scarneo and seconded by Marie Hoffman.**

ALL AYES; NO NAYS

MEETING ADJOURNED