

**Town of Dover
Board of Health, May 10, 2004**

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.

Secretary Donna Cook called the roll.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Marie Hoffman, Constance Sibona-Foster,
Donna Cook, Christopher Chapman, Ramiro Gomez,
Karen Vaughan

ABSENT: Jean Cater

ALSO PRESENT: Ronald Camacho, Alderman
Donald Costanzo, Health Officer

President Hoffman called for a motion to accept the minutes from the April 2004 Regular Meeting of the Board of Health.

A motion to accept the minutes from the April 2004 Regular Meeting of the Board of Health was made by Donna Cook and duly seconded by Christopher Chapman.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Letter from Princeton University to the HO dated 4/16/04; re: questionnaire.
2. Letter from Patricia Horan to the HO dated 4/29/04; re: garbage concerns.

President Hoffman asked the HO if there was any correspondence of significance.

The HO cited the letter from Patricia Horan regarding problems with garbage collection. The letter was passed around to the members of the Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Health Officer (HO) distributed the monthly report to the Board.

Garbage tonnage for April 2004 was 478.14 tons; up from the same month one-year ago by 0.54 tons or 0.1%.

Garbage sticker receipts for April 2004 were \$3,064.00; up from the same month one-year ago by \$584.00 or 24%.

At last month's meeting Constance Foster asked the HO how much the penalties were for violating the garbage ordinance. The HO's response was incorrect. The fines were \$50 for the first offense, \$100 for the second offense, and the third offense requires a court appearance with a minimum fine of \$150.

The fines were, at one time, \$25, \$50, and court appearance required. However, there were increased.

The HO updated the Board on the matter of 19 Audrey Place and animal cruelty. On March 25th the HO visited the dwelling to find that a pit bull dog was confined in a locked shed all day with no windows for light. The HO contacted the Animal Control Officer who responded the same day and impounded the dog.

The NJ Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) filed a cruelty complaint against the dog owners and the matter will be heard in court on Tuesday, May 11th. The HO will be a witness to the complaint.

The HO passed out the remainder of the Financial Disclosure Statements from last month's meeting.

In other old business, Connie Foster asked Alderman Camacho for an update on the Missionaries of God serving food to the homeless and the alternate location he was working on.

Alderman Camacho responded that he has noted the number of persons receiving food gradually diminishing and believed that under the present circumstances it was better to let the program fade away.

Connie Foster also asked Alderman Camacho about the new Department of Code Enforcement and Inspections and how it was doing. Alderman Camacho responded that the new department was doing amazingly well.

Connie Foster asked if the inspectors discovered problems while riding around or by people calling the department. Alderman Camacho stated that the department conducted inspections by ward and that the code enforcement officers were very busy.

At last month's meeting, Connie Foster had requested the HO to provide the Board with the current dog and cat licensing ordinances. The HO distributed copies of the ordinances to the Board.

Constance Foster raised the issue of limiting the number of dogs by noting quality of life issues such as barking and small lot size. Problems such as barking are more of a nuisance when people live close together in a town such as Dover with small properties.

Linda Kilcrease, a King Street resident and member of the community in attendance, introduced herself to the Board of Health. Ms. Kilcrease wished to state her support to limiting the number of dogs in the Town of Dover. Ms. Kilcrease related her experiences with a neighbor who kept four (4) dogs and the problems associated with many dogs. Ms. Kilcrease reframed the quality of life issues mentioned by Connie Foster such as barking, small lot sizes, and the odors associated with the accumulation of dog feces.

Connie Foster also related personal experiences with nearby residents who kept many dogs that barked and created other problems with foul odors from accumulations of dog feces.

Alderman Camacho suggested to Ms. Kilcrease that a better approach to resolving issues such as barking dogs is through the Police Advisory Committee since the barking dog ordinance is enforced by the Police Department.

Alderman Camacho also felt that it would be difficult to limit the number of dogs in the Town, and that this type of ordinance was uncommon.

Connie Foster stated that if the Town of Dover can limit the number of cats by ordinance, Dover should be able to limit the number of dogs as well.

After a general discussion of the issue, the Board directed the HO to research ordinances that limit the number of dogs from other communities for the next meeting. President Marie Hoffman stated that it would be preferred to have ordinances limiting dogs from urban communities like Dover.

Linda Kilcrease interjected by saying that urban areas or urban communities would be more likely to have ordinances that limit the number of dogs a resident can keep.

The HO stated that he didn't think he could match communities to Dover in his search since he believed that most towns do not have such ordinances. However, he will reach out to the League of Municipalities to conduct a search of similar ordinances and report back to the Board at next month's meeting.

Connie Foster briefly mentioned the fees charged for a dog license with the suggestion that they be raised. However, Christopher Chapman pointed out that the fees for dog licenses are set by the State of New Jersey.

NEW BUSINESS:

The HO informed the Board that a Dog Waste Sign was installed on the downhill side of Prospect Street as requested by Jean Cater at last month's meeting.

The HO also informed Connie Foster that the email she sent to the health department regarding the condition of the garbage containment area at Dover Hills apartments was referred to the Department of Code Enforcement on the same day it was received (5/3/04).

Connie Foster asked whether any court action or fines had been levied against the owner of the Dover Hills apartments. The HO did not know. Alderman Camacho suggested that the HO check with the Code Enforcement Department and get back to the Board at next month's meeting.

In another matter, the HO handed Connie Foster a copy of the agenda for the annual conference of New Jersey Local Boards of Health to be held on May 22nd in Middlesex County. The registration was attached if anyone wanted to attend the conference. The same material was distributed to other members of the Board.

The HO informed the Board that a clean-up program was conducted on May 4th with volunteer students from the Dover High School Key Club. The teacher, Ed Honrath, six (6) students, and Alderman Camacho cleaned-up about 20 bags and assorted junk on S. Salem Street near the Salem Street bridge.

In a related matter, Connie Foster stated that she was coordinating a program for the Dover Renaissance in September. Ms. Foster is hoping to get the President of "Keep America Beautiful" as a guest presenter. The thrust of the program is to learn what we can do as a Town to beautify the community.

The HO gave the Board an update on programming by announcing the following activities:

- Tobacco Prevention at Dover Middle School: May 13th; 7th & 8th graders; 5 sessions; coordinated with Rick Johnson, SAC Counselor, Dover Public Schools.
- West Nile Virus Season: dead crow surveillance & testing commenced April 15th; advisory about mosquitoes (i.e. eliminate standing water, wear long sleeve shirts & pants; use insect repellents; repair screens on windows & doors; avoid outdoor activities at dawn, dusk & evening hours).
- Medication Management for Seniors: May 18th @ 2:00 pm; Dover Housing Authority, 215 E. Blackwell Street; pharmacist from Goodale's present; nurse present to take blood pressure.
- Healthy Heart Program for Kids: May 26th; Dover Child Care.
- Cholesterol Screening Program: June 5th; Courtroom; registration now; registration is limited.

In other new business, the HO raised the subject of the health department's web site. Constance Foster had previously mentioned that a web page containing fees be added to the site.

Connie Foster had brought with her samples of materials taken from other web sites she had seen that might be incorporated in Dover's web site. As an example, one particular site provided information for seniors that linked them by referrals to a proper agency after determining if they were at health risk.

The HO stated that a senior's page could be created on the health department's web page that included something like the risk referral page Ms. Foster referred to and it could also include other subjects relating to senior health.

Discussions of web page improvements concluded with a request that Board members look at Dover's web page and other web sites too. If anyone finds something that they like, they could bring it to the Board meeting or email the HO so that the possible modification of the web site can be discussed.

Karen Vaughan also suggested that key pieces of information on the Dover Health Department web page be in both Spanish and English. The HO asked Ms. Vaughan to take a look at the Dover web site over the next few weeks and make suggestions about what she thought should be in Spanish.

THE MEETING WAS OPENED TO BOARD MEMBERS WHO WISHED TO DISCUSS A PARTICULAR ISSUE.

Karen Vaughan mentioned recent news that was published in the papers about the air quality in various regions on New Jersey. Ms. Vaughan stated that Morris County received an F for air quality.

In an unrelated matter, Ms. Vaughan also commented that the rise in heroine use was a growing problem. This sparked a general discussion about substance abuse and programs that focus on this issue.

The HO mentioned several agencies dedicated to substance use issues; i.e. Rick Johnson, the SAC Coordinator at Dover High School; Saint Clare's Community Health Trust's Teen & Youth, Substance Abuse & Tobacco Action Team, as well as the Municipal Alliance Committee.

Karen Vaughan was particularly concerned with raising awareness of the problem through education and targeted programming and questioned how we could join with

others to address this problem. Alderman Ron Camacho suggested reaching out to Hope House which devotes resources towards this problem.

Connie Foster asked Ramiro Gomez about the Dover Community Clinic and if they addressed the problem of substance abuse with their clientele.

Mr. Gomez gave a brief overview of the primary care services and mission of the clinic. Mr. Gomez stated the importance of referrals to agencies, publicity and health promotion to raise awareness, and literature to educate people about drug issue.

The HO stated that Saint Clare's Community Health Trust will coordinate a large and important drug seminar to be held in the fall. The focus of the program will be the rising problem of heroine use.

In a concluding final comment unrelated to substance abuse, Connie Foster noted that this time of year begins the mosquito breeding season. Ms. Foster expressed concern about the storage of old tires that collect water which serves as a breeding site for mosquitoes. Ms. Foster asked if there was an ordinance that specifically prohibited the keeping of old tires.

The HO stated that he did not think there was such an ordinance but that there is a Public Health Nuisance Code of New Jersey that specifically prohibits conditions that create breeding grounds for mosquitoes such as standing water in tires, bird baths, abandoned swimming pools, etc. The law, therefore, provides a means for the local authority to address such problems.

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

ALL AYES; NO NAYS

MEETING ADJOURNED