

Town of Dover
Board of Health, October 18, 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.

President Marie Hoffman called the roll.

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Jean Cater, Donna Cook

ALSO PRESENT: Donald Costanzo, Health Officer

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

A motion to accept the minutes from the September 2004 regular meeting of the Board of Health was made by Marie Hoffman and duly seconded by Christopher Chapman.

ALL AYES; NO NAYS

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Letter from Douglas Fay to the HO dated 9/15/04; re: interview for p/t REHS position.
2. Letter from the US Department of Health & Human Services to the HO dated 9/24/04; re: invitation to web conferences.
3. Letter from UMDNJ School of Public Health to the HO dated 9/30/04; re: copies of journals on health policy.

4. Letter from Underwriters Laboratories Inc. to the HO dated 10/11/04; re: private well water testing services.

President Hoffman asked if there was any correspondence to discuss.

The HO stated that there was no significant correspondence.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Garbage tonnage for September 2004 was 5515.60 tons; up from the same month one-year ago by 0.75 tons or 0.25%.

Garbage sticker receipts for September 2004 were \$3,225.00; up from the same month one-year ago by \$522.50 or 19%.

The only thing out of the ordinary about the garbage figures was that sticker receipts jumped 19% from the same month a year ago when the actual tonnage changed very little.

The HO informed the Board that the following programs were conducted over the past two months:

- Heart Attack & Stroke Education; 215 E. Blackwell Street (9/21).
- Head Start Health Fair; child photo ID, Leady Eddy; Child Safety Education & Information (10/02).
- Hearing Education & Screening; 215 E. Blackwell Street (10/04).
- Female Cancer Screening Program (10/12).
- 10/16: Nutrition Program; El Primer Paso; for adult caregivers entirely in Spanish.
- 10/17: Stroke Lecture; United Methodist Church.

The HO stated that the Health Fair at Head Start was attended by hundreds of children and their families. The Dover Health Department did 65 child photo IDs under the guidelines of the National Missing Children's Association.

Constance Foster asked about the female cancer screening program. Ms. Foster asked who the physician was for the clinic. The HO stated that it was Dr. Patricia Renz. Ms. Foster stated that she had participated in the program about 10 or 12 years ago, and that

that was how she acquired her physician, Dr. Siegel. Ms. Foster asked other general questions about the female cancer screening program.

The Health Department just completed its Flu Shot Program for Senior on this day, 10/18 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The HO explained the difficulties in dealing with many requests for vaccinations and a severely limited supply.

The HO asked Christopher Chapman if he was able to obtain flu vaccine. Mr. Chapman responded that Ringwood was unable to get vaccine. However, Wanaque did get 700 doses. This led to a general discussion of the difficulties in ordering and obtaining flu vaccine.

The Health Department was fortunate to have purchased flu vaccine from Aventis Pasteur, the only manufacturer able to fill orders. The limited vaccine was dedicated to the elderly and chronically ill. In previous year it was available to many more people. The HO will give a full report on the outcome of the program at next month's meeting.

Mr. Chapman mentioned that there was a company that was administering flu vaccinations through outlets such as Eckert Drugs and Shop Rite Supermarkets, but that many clinics were cancelled after a limited number of vaccinations were dispensed.

Karen Vaughan stated that the Acme Supermarket cancelled their clinic. Christopher Chapman added that a web site called 'findaflushot.com' posted many clinics initially, but removed many of them as they were cancelled.

Upcoming programs include:

- 10/22: Substance Abuse program called "Heroin – What You Need to Know; Randolph Skylands; 8:30 am – 2:30 pm.
- 10/25: Blood Pressure Lecture in Spanish; Dover Housing Authority, 215 E. Blackwell St.
- 11/03: Diabetes Education; 215 E. Blackwell St.
- 11/06: Safe Sitter Program; Head Start (Sat.); all day program.

The HO summarized the Heroin program at the Skylands. As the Chair of Saint Clare's Community Health Trust, the HO, Morris County Prevention is Key and the Dope Open, hosted the program. Doug Collier, Special Agent with the DEA and David Toma are the scheduled presenters. David Toma is considered one of the greatest motivational speakers on the subject of substance abuse in America today.

Constance Foster stated that she had heard David Toma before. The HO had mentioned the TV series 'Toma' and 'Baretta' which were based on the life of David Toma. Ms. Foster was aware of the series and the actor, Tony Musante, who played David Toma in the series, "Toma."

At last month's meeting, the HO mentioned the vacant house on Drake Avenue that is a chronic eyesore and rodent control problem. Since that time, the HO has learned that the property was purchased. The new owner is currently fixing the dwelling and improving the neighborhood.

The Board discussed the hospital and the use of land such as the purchase of the house on Drake Avenue. Constance Foster mentioned that the hospital had an application before the Board of Adjustment for a heliport in the front near Route 46. Marie Hoffman commented that she thought helicopters landing and taking off near Route 46 would be a distraction to passing motorists and create a safety hazard.

In other old business, at last month's meeting the HO agreed to visit Krauzers and the Mobil Station Mini-Mart regarding the selling of small glass vials that have a rose in them. The Board recalled Patty Edwards, 84 Princeton Avenue, who spoke during the public portion of last month's meeting stating that young people purchase the small glass vials to use as drug paraphernalia. The HO agreed to visit the stores and ask them to voluntarily remove them from the front customer area of the store.

On October 6th, the HO visited the Mobil Mini-Mart on Route 46 and spoke with Mr. Gill, the brother of the owner of the establishment. Mr. Gill voluntarily removed the items from the front customer counter and placed them behind the counter where they could not be easily seen.

On October 13th, the HO visited Krauzers with the Chief of Police and spoke with the proprietor. The proprietor voluntarily removed the items from the front customer counter as well and placed them behind the counter where they could not be easily seen.

Constance Foster briefly provided an overview of the drug paraphernalia issue to the nursing students who were present at the meeting, and commented that she had visited the

Quick Chek stores nearby her workplace. Ms. Foster had spoken with a store manager who told her that corporate policy prohibited them from selling these types of items.

During general discussion of the issue, Ms. Foster stated that she felt a letter from the Mayor to the corporate headquarters of Krauzers might have been an effective way to get the store to remove the vials from the counter. In closing, President Marie Hoffman thanked the HO for visiting Krauzers and the Mobil Station Mini Mart.

NEW BUSINESS:

The HO informed the Board that he attended a Dover Community Clinic Board of Partner's meeting on September 7th. The Clinic is now a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). Mrs. Zufall is stepping down as CEO and a new CEO by the name of John Carico was hired. Dr. Zufall was appointed Chairman of the Board and the clinic was renamed the "Zufall Community Health Center" in honor of the Zufall's.

The Board discussed the Dover Community Clinic, the origin of its name and its history. Ramiro Gomez gave a brief overview of the impact of the FQHC designation. Mr. Gomez explained that the first major challenge is the newly installed MIS computer system and the extensive regulations and extra work associated with complex rules of operation. Mr. Gomez also mentioned there is a possible satellite clinic that may open in Morristown in the future.

Constance Foster asked if the clinic would be expanding operations in the Town of Dover. Mr. Gomez stated that the Zufall Community Clinic was looking to grow slowly over the next three years.

In other new business, the HO gave an update on the status of hiring a Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS). Four candidates have been interviewed and letters have gone out to nearby towns regarding inter-local agreements for REHS services.

The matter of hiring a p/t REHS should be concluded over the next couple of weeks.

Constance Foster asked the HO what the p/t REHS does. The HO responded that the REHS does restaurant inspections which led to general discussion about keeping up with inspections and the enforcement of sanitary regulations.

Ms. Foster mentioned that this year's Joseph Kekuku memorial program honoring the man who invented the Hawaiian Steel Guitar was very successful. Food was served at the memorial. Ms. Foster stated that a memorial service would be hosted again next year at the Baker Theatre and that 1200 people were expected to attend. Various foods from restaurants would be showcased at the program. Because many people will be coming to Dover, the cleanliness of the downtown area, as well as the restaurants, was very important.

The HO reminded the Board that the November meeting of the Board of Health is budget month. At that time a draft of the health department budget will be submitted to the Board for review.

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

The following members of the general public were present at the meeting:

- Linda Kilcrease, Dover, NJ
- Judy Rugg, RN, Dover, NJ (student, St. Elizabeth College)
- Viktoriya LaDue, Short Hills, NJ (student, St. Elizabeth College)

Linda Kilcrease was in attendance as part of the Board's discussion of its previously proposed ordinance amendment limiting the number of dogs per household. The subject was raised by Constance Foster who brought up the dog limiting ordinance.

Ms. Foster felt that the Board of Health's recommendation to the Board of Aldermen to limit the number of dogs was not sufficiently discussed, and that there is a need to take preventive action to avoid problems associated with keeping a number of dogs in the future.

Linda Kilcrease introduced herself to the Board and explained a problem she had with a neighbor keeping multiple dogs and stated why she believed it was important to limit the number of dogs per household. Ms. Kilcrease gave the following reasons why the proposed ordinance was important:

- The noise from barking dogs is disturbing and shrill. The noise level is amplified by multiple dogs barking & intensifying the disturbance.
- The constant barking of dogs from even one house can become a problem for many neighbors. The noise of barking dogs is stressful and unhealthy.
- Small lot sizes and the proximity to neighbors exacerbate problems associated with noise & barking dogs.

Constance Foster stated that many people in her neighborhood are getting dogs. When one dog starts barking, others join in and start barking. Presently, there is no ordinance in place to stop or control the number of dogs and felt that it should be restricted before it becomes a bigger problem.

Karen Vaughan felt that restricting the number of dogs per household would be an infringe on a person's rights.

The Board continued a general discussion with emphasis placed on how the matter could be re-opened for consideration by the Board of Aldermen. Karen Vaughan suggested that the subject could be raised at a ward meeting or the Board of Health could brainstorm the issue over the next month. Constance Foster felt that it was too important to wait that long.

After concluding the conversation, Constance Foster made **a motion directing the Health Officer to write a memo to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen requesting that the matter of limiting the number of dogs per household be re-opened and re-considered emphasizing the following points:**

- **Noise issues from barking dogs; disturbing/annoying; multiple dogs amplify noise becoming shrill and compound the problem through interaction.**
- **Defecation & foul odors.**
- **Issues relating to dogs getting loose and running at large.**

- **Pointing out that other towns limit the number of dogs per household; it is not an unusual for communities to limit the number of dogs a resident can keep.**
- **An ordinance limiting the number of dogs will not hurt or impose a hardship on existing multiple dog owners due to a grandfather clause.**

The motion was seconded by Marie Hoffman.

In Favor: Marie Hoffman
Constance Foster
Christopher Chapman
Ramiro Gomez

1 Opposed: Karen Vaughan

Judy Rugg, RN and Viktoriya LaDue, students at St. Elizabeth College who had introduced themselves to the Board earlier, were asked by President Marie Hoffman if they had any questions. Ms. Rugg and Ms. LaDue were in attendance as part of a class they were taking.

Ms. LaDue asked what were the biggest health and safety issues in Dover. The HO responded that quality of life issues such as housing, garbage & litter were very important.

However, the Board pointed out that quality of life issues were not necessarily safety ones, which raised subject of lead poisoning in children as an important safety issue. Constance Foster asked if there were aging population issues that were of a high priority. The HO stated that although the department provided services to the aging population, adult health services were not necessarily considered safety issues.

Viktoriya LaDue also asked about the public water supply contamination problem associated with Dover Municipal Well #4. The HO provided a brief overview of the status of superfund site well # 4.

Judy Rugg asked the HO about Dover's emergency response plan. The HO responded that Dover does have an Emergency Operations Plan and that the Health Department has its own "Annex." The Emergency Operations Plan is formally reviewed and updated on a regular basis and Ms. Rugg was welcome to examine the health department annex.

President Marie Hoffman asked if there were any more questions or comments. There being no more questions or comments, members of the public were thanked for their participation in this evening's meeting.

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 Christopher Chapman and seconded by Constance Foster.

ALL AYES; NO NAYS

MEETING ADJOURNED