

NORTH ATTLEBORO BOARD OF HEALTH

Meeting Minutes of
January 7, 2008 6:30 pm

In Attendance: Don Bates, Chairman; John Donohue Jr., Member; Susan Shaw, Member; Agents Rob Casper and Robert Davis; Public Health Nurse, Anne Marie Fleming

Visitors: Jonathan Maslen, 61B Towne Street

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6:30 PM.

MINUTES:

MOTION made by Mr. Donohue to accept the minutes of December 10, 2007.
Ms. Shaw seconded. Brief discussion, all in favor, motion passes 3-0.

HEALTH NURSE'S MONTHLY REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2007:

The Members welcomed Public Health Nurse AnneMarie Fleming to the meeting, who gave her report and answered the Members' questions.

MOTION made by Mr. Donohue to accept the Nurse's Monthly Report as written.
Ms. Shaw seconded. Some additional discussion, all in favor, motion passes 3-0.

HUMAN SERVICES POSITION:

The Board again discussed the need to have a human services professional in the Town and what it can do to help make that a reality. An article to add a Human Services position to the Town rolls will need to be created for the May 2008 Town Meeting. Discussion ensued and the Members agreed they should discuss the position with Representative, Betty Poirier and get her support for this important position.

HEALTH AGENT'S MONTHLY REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2007:

The Members welcomed Assistant Health Agent Rob Casper to the meeting, who gave his report and answered the Members' questions.

MOTION made by Mr. Donohue to accept the Agent's Monthly Report as written.
Ms. Shaw seconded. Some discussion, all in favor, motion passes 3-0.

MASSAGE LICENSES:

The Department has received notification today from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Division of Professional Licensure that municipalities must stop issuing licenses to massage therapists as Chapter 135 of the Acts of 2006 of the Massachusetts General Laws now requires that the licensing of massage therapy shall be regulated under the State's jurisdiction. Mr. Davis will check to see whether the State is also henceforth responsible for the regulation of massage establishments.

REGIONAL WELLNESS GRANT SUPPORT:

Mr. Davis explained that Fall River's Health and Human Services Department is applying for a grant to create a regional wellness program for municipal employees and has asked North Attleborough and several other towns to participate. Selectmen Chair Bill Moffitt and Mr. Davis have provided letters of support to be included in the grant application. Through its participation, North Attleborough can choose some or all of the employee wellness programs to be developed and offer them to its employees.

TOWN COUNSEL OPINION ON SUBDIVISION REVIEWS:

Town Counsel has advised the Board of Health that it must notify the Planning Board of specific findings within 45 days after the plan is filed with the Board of Health when approving or disapproving of a subdivision. If the Board reviews the findings of its engineer and specifies the tasks to be required of the developer, the Planning Board should take the Board of Health's decision into account.

CUSHMAN VILLAGE:

Mr. Bates and Mr. Donohue reported on attending last Thursday's Planning Board meeting for their discussion of the Cushman Village subdivision. The Planning Board and the Cushman Village developer, together with his attorney and engineer, denigrated and complained about the Board of Health's review of this subdivision for 30 minutes, without recognizing Mr. Bates or Mr. Donohue or inviting their response. Not until one of the Planning Board members suggested that his Chairman recognize the Board of Health members present and invite them to comment was Mr. Bates allowed to speak. Discussion ensued that such treatment of the members of one board by another was disrespectful and counterproductive. Mr. Donohue read the letter from the Town Planner sent the day following this meeting into the record.

MOTION made by Mr. Bates to respond to the Planning Board regarding Cushman Village as follows: 1) to outline in detail the process the Board of Health uses for subdivision reviews in general; 2) to identify as specifically as possible each concern it has on the Cushman Village project, and; 3) to specify a date and time that the Board of Health and the Planning Board should meet to come to an agreement for the subdivision review process going forward. Mr. Donohue seconded. In the discussion that followed, Mr. Davis noted that the developer received a November 29th letter from him providing the Mill River report and advising that the Board could not approve the project before the Developer could submit its response to the issues raised in the Mill River report to both the Planning Board and the Board of Health. Likewise, Mr. Davis noted that the developer was notified on April 21, 2006 and again on October 22, 2007 that the cost of that Board's subdivision review would be the responsibility of the developer. After some additional discussion, all in favor, motion passes 3-0.

MOUNT HOPE FARM ESTATES REPORT:

The Board received Mill River's Report for Mount Hope Farm Estates Subdivision. The Board has 18 days left of the 45 days allowed for subdivision review, and the Members agreed that the Mill River report should be sent to the developer, Angle Tree Consulting & Engineering Inc. for their response to the issues raised in the report, and to respond to the Board before the next meeting if possible. The January 14th meeting will be the last meeting of the Board in January and the last meeting before the expiration of the Board's 45-day review period to respond to the Planning Board.

MDPH 2008 INTERNSHIP APPLICATION:

Mr. Davis has completed and submitted the application to request a graduate public health intern through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for the summer of '08.

NORTH TV APPEARANCE:

Mr. Bates, Ms. Fleming and Mr. Davis will represent the Board of Health on January 10, 2008 with North TV to explain to the public what the Board of Health does.

NATIONAL HEALTH PERFORMANCE STANDARDS PROGRAM:

Mr. Bates, Mr. Donohue and Mr. Davis have participated in a conference call on this National Health Performance Standards grant. A similar conference call on the Program will be held on the 15th, and Mr. Davis offered to participate in it with Ms. Shaw from his office if she wished.

SERVSAFE BROADCAST LETTER:

The letter advising all food service establishments of the Board's new standard for certified food protection managers during all food preparation operations or shifts has gone out to all food advising them of the requirements and May 15, '08 effective date. Arrangements still need to be made to hold at least two certification courses in Town before May 15th.

TEMPORARY FOOD PERMITS:

A letter has been mailed to each of organizations that applied for temporary food permits last year advising them of the Board’s intention to meet each temporary food applicant before issuing a permit and the need therefore, to submit their application sufficiently in advance of the events they wish to hold to allow the Board to do that.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Report

Mr. Davis will draft a narrative component for the annual report of the Department this year for the Board’s consideration.

Weight Control Program

Mr. Bates and Mr. Donohue expressed interest in establishing some kind of weight loss competition that Town employees and the public could participate in, perhaps including exercise and weight control components. Mr. Davis explained that some Town employees have already begun a “Biggest Loser” competition among themselves involving weigh-ins with the Public Health Nurse, cash prizes, and certain other rules.

COMPLAINT LOG:

The Members reviewed each of the complaints in the active complaint log, including:

50 Sheldonville Road

Materials have been placed under tarps and the brush in this yard reduced, and a letter has been received from the owner’s attorney asking that the complaint be dismissed. In discussion however, the Members felt that the owner has yet to come into compliance with respect to disposition of the pile of brush on the property. The brush pile must still be disposed of by burning, chipping, being taken to the Town’s compost area or etc. before the complaint can be dismissed.

11 Summer Street

Members reviewed a letter from the owner of this property suggesting that he need not pay the \$100 fine or delead the property because the family with the child under 6 who previously lived in the property has left. Mr. Davis has returned a letter to the owner in response, with a copy to Town Counsel, advising that the fine and previous orders to correct are still in place and putting him on notice that additional penalties will be forthcoming for continued non-compliance.

93-95 Fisher Street

The bank that owns the property at 93-95 Fisher Street has been asked to clean up the property and bring it into compliance with the sanitary code, but it has yet to respond.

Lowe’s

Informational letters still need to go out to all surrounding businesses in Lowe’s general area regarding the mechanical noise that can occur intermittently in the early morning hours.

ADJOURN:

MOTION made by Mr. Donohue to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM. Seconded by Ms. Shaw. No discussion, motion passes 3-0.