

LONGMEADOW BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes of Meeting

Monday, March 24, 2008 7:30P.M. Longmeadow Fire Dept. Training Rm.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 P.M. by the Chair.

BOH members present were: Dr. Michael Coppola, Dr. Richard Steingart, Maripat Toye, RN, MS, and Dr. Robert Rappaport. Beverly Hirschhorn, CHO, Longmeadow Health Director, was also present. The new associate member to the BOH, Dr. Robert Baevsky, was introduced and welcomed to the BOH.

1) Public comment was available at the beginning of this meeting; no residents present to address public comments.

2) The minutes of the regular BOH meeting of December 17, 2007 were unanimously approved and accepted without amendment. The minutes of the Executive session were approved.

3) Old Business:

*On going Housing Code Enforcement issues for Plymouth Road and Redfern Drive discussed. The town has facilitated the clean up of Plymouth Road three times and the resident gentleman completed evaluations for placement but did not qualify at this time for residential placement. Household presently still meets standards and BOH will continue to monitor this situation.

Redfern Drive owner was served a summons and the home is presently unoccupied and the litter and trash is being cleaned up as per requested summons requirements. BOH will follow up until this process meets standard.

* Enforcement of Grease Regulations-It has been determined that the grease traps that were in place at the two restaurants (Iron Chef and Hukelau) require more frequent emptying than previously considered. These two businesses will keep monthly logs now to monitor this regulation.

*Noise Bylaw follow up issue in regards to Armata Food Store was discussed. The BOH will begin to research methods to monitor and collect information regarding noise nuisance in a standardized way. Bev will be collecting data on how other towns have captured and monitored these types of situations. It may affect a bylaw change for the town, so the BOH will be completing a statewide search of other town's bylaws and facilitation of this issue. One concept is the D.E.P. decibel meter reading method with sporadic and/or 24 hour monitoring.

4) New Business

*BOH discussed the designation of the Town of Longmeadow Medical Reserve Corps as a volunteer auxiliary organization to work under the direction of the BOH in any public health emergency or other emergency requiring public health services. The BOH may also request the deployment of the Town of Longmeadow Medical Reserve Corps to assist in BOH to provide public health services in non-emergency situations (e.g. annual flu clinics, health education initiatives, etc.). The BOH voted unanimously to approve this initiative.

*Private Wells: former wells in town, where access to town water is now available need to be capped per D.E.P. regulations. The BOH will develop a proposal for local Well Regulation provisions. The provision will require capping of former drinking water wells or guidelines for use as irrigation wells only. The BOH will articulate these provisions and plan to send letters to the resident homes involved to request their plans for their former drinking water

wells. The BOH will research construction costs associated with this process to provide supportive information for these residents.

* Emergency Preparedness Drills-The BOH reviewed the process for response time and requirements for response in the event of an emergency preparedness drill for the town and BOH members. The process and expectations in emergency responses was reviewed and articulated by all BOH members.

5) Report of Activities

*Reportable Diseases-

-The outbreak of Pertussis at the LHS was discussed. Bev has initiated a training and educational effort and program for the LHS school athletic department and school personnel regarding this issue and prevention methods.

-The annual influenza and pneumonia clinic provided 1,200 doses (1,000 resident doses and 200 staff doses). CDC has recommended continuing giving vaccine through the spring season.

-There will be a national system of vaccine distribution in the future. It will be via federal distribution of vaccines to states.

-There will also be a new reporting system for electronic submission of surveillance data for reportable infectious diseases for epidemiologic follow up reports. (Maven system). Bev will be utilizing this system for Longmeadow's cases of reportable diseases.

*Septic System repairs- Two septic system installations were discussed by the BOH. (South Avenue and Shaker Road systems were addressed). The Shaker Rd situation raised some issues as to the credibility of the "hauler" at that site. Bev will follow up regarding this concern and not grant a license to haul this location until further research into this contractor.

*Longmeadowe Days- The BOH will monitor the activities for this years food stands and monitoring compliance to health standards again this year. (Weekend of May 17-18).

*Grant Activities-

-Bev has secured a "Wellness Grant" for \$25,000 for 2008 and \$50,000 for 2009. This is a pilot project for a wellness program for town employees. The grant enables the collaborative towns (Longmeadow, E. Longmeadow, Hampden-Wilbraham school district and Pioneer Valley Development Cooperative schools) to hire a coordinator and implement a program. The program will also include collecting data, assessing health risks, providing prevention measures and planning to develop future programs for wellness and monitoring health issues.

-Tobacco compliance checks in December, 2007 and March, 2008 found no violations.

*An "Anti-Idling Regulation" is an issue that will require a public hearing for the Town. A local bank has submitted a request for a new drive up bank teller window at the Shaker Road mall (across the street from Armata Food Store). The BOH will need to post "no-idling" signs for this area as it abuts nearby homes. D.E.P. regulations disallow idling for more than 5 minutes. A public hearing will be required for this issue.

* An update on Emergency Preparedness: Hampden County Deliverable and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) were given by Beverly. The town has 140 volunteers and 120 are MD's or RN's. 40 have completed the total training requirements. (MRC 101, Incident Command Structure 100/National Incident Management System 700 (on line- www.wmmrc.org) and Behavioral Health in Emergency Situations as well. The December 3, 2007 lecture by the MA DPH on "Psychological First Aid" is available on tape for others to access.

The BOH meeting was adjourned at 8:55P.M

Respectfully submitted, Maripat Toye, RN, MS, Longmeadow BOH

(Approved at Oct. 30, 2008 Board of Health Meeting)