

TEWKSBURY BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes

December 15, 2005

Chairman Phillip French called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM at the Tewksbury Police Station. Present at the meeting were, Christine Kinnon, Thomas Churchill, Edward Sheehan, Ralph McHatton, Health Director Thomas Carbone and Recording Secretary Dawn Cathcart.

Public Hearings

Jan Tino for Soma Therapeutic Massage – Request to Operate a Massage Establishment at 1501 Main Street, Unit 19, as well as a Variance Request for Hand Washing Sinks

Jan Tino appeared for a public hearing. Ms. Tino stated that she has lived in town for eighteen years and is currently working in another establishment. There is a need for another type of massage establishment in town. There is a spa to cover the “spa set”. There is a spa to cover the “yoga set”. This spa will be for everyone else. Ms. Tino stated that she is requesting a variance for the hand washing sink in every room because of the existing plumbing of the building. It will cost over \$8,000 to fix the plumbing. There will be procedures in place for the clients and therapists. They will be using an antiseptic gel that provides better protection than hand washing. In addition to the use of the gel in every room, the therapists will wash their hands in the central area before and after each client.

Mr. French asked what the hours of operation will be. Ms. Tino replied 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM, with the last client starting at 8:00 PM. This will be for six days a week.

Mr. McHatton asked if the bacteria gel will be in each massage room. Ms. Tino replied yes. Mr. McHatton asked if there are sinks in each bathroom. Ms. Tino replied yes.

Mr. Carbone stated that there will be two votes required. One vote for the establishment and one for the variance. Mr. Carbone added that the plumbing is difficult to change in that building.

Ms. Kinnon asked how many therapists will be employed. Ms. Tino replied there will be five therapists for three treatment rooms. The appointments are scheduled one hour and fifteen minutes to one hour and thirty minute intervals. Ms. Kinnon asked if Ms. Tino had certifications. Ms. Tino replied yes, that she is nationally and locally certified.

MOTION - Mr. French made a motion to approve the requested variance for hand sinks in every room. The motion was seconded by Mr. Churchill and unanimously voted 5-0. In doing so, it was cited that a hand cleaning protocol has been provided for implementation which exceeded the requirements and intent of hand washing, and that to require sinks in each treatment room would result in excessive costs to the applicant.

MOTION - Mr. French made a motion to approve the operation of a massage establishment at 1501 Main Street, Unit 19. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kinnon and unanimously voted 5-0.

Discussions

2006 Board of Health Schedule

MOTION - Mr. French made a motion to approve the Board of Health schedule for 2006 as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kinnon and unanimously voted 5-0.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION - Mr. Churchill made a motion to approve the Board of Health minutes of November 17, 2005. The motion was seconded by Mr. McHatton and unanimously voted 5-0.

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Public Hearings (Continued)

Thomas Romano – Request to Keep Animals at 81 Judique Road

Thomas Romano appeared for the public hearing to request that he be allowed to keep horses at his residence on 81 Judique Road. Mr. Carbone stated that a petition was received from the neighbors requesting that this application be denied. Mr. Carbone gave a copy to Mr. Romano. Mr. Romano read the petition and stated he was appalled at the content of the petition. Mr. Carbone stated that the board can decide what is important and pertinent to this application. Mr. Romano submitted a letter of withdrawal.

MOTION - Ms. Kinnon made a motion to allow the withdrawal of the application by Mr. Romano to keep animals at 81 Judique Road. The motion was seconded by Mr. Churchill and unanimously voted 5-0.

Discussions

Mr. Carbone stated that there was a case of Pertussis at the High School. There was a positive case in a football player in November and another positive result was just confirmed. The entire football team should be on antibiotics by now.

Board Member Reports

Tewksbury Cares

Ms. Kinnon stated that they are competing for a grant of \$10,000 on Monday.

MRC

Mr. Churchill stated that the MRC met last night. Mr. Churchill stated that Sandy Collins went to Otis Air Force Base to help in the inoculation of the refugees from Louisiana. Mr. Churchill added that the MRC is not just for medical personnel.

Mr. Carbone stated that he is working with Nancy Burns on getting the mass mailing out.

MOTION - Ms. Kinnon made a motion to adjourn at 7:40 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sheehan and unanimously voted 5-0.

Approved: _____
Christine Kinnon, Clerk