

Pittsfield Board of Health
Wednesday, November 1, 2023
City Hall, Room 203, 6 p.m.

Present: Acting Chairperson Brad Gordon; Board Members: Sandra Gattasso, Jeffrey Leppo

Also Present Health Department Director Andy Cambi

Convening

The meeting of the Pittsfield Board of Health was held on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at City Hall, Room 203. Acting Chairperson Gordon called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Order to Demolish Request – 91-93 Orchard Street: Director Andy Cambi provided a brief overview of the process of condemnation and subsequently an order to demolish for the newer board members. Andrew Gagnon, Code Enforcement Officer, appeared and provided an overview of the property noting that the property suffered a structure fire on July 4, 2022, and was condemned July 7, 2022. The property was and remains secured, however there have been recent complaints of rodent activity. A motion to approve the Order to Demolish was made by Board Member Leppo and seconded by Board Member Gattasso. The Board voted unanimously.

Gulf Food Mart- 186 Wahconah St.: Andy Cambi noted that he has been informed by Attorney McCarthy that the Gulf Food Mart missed the deadline to appeal the state suspension of their Mass DOR tobacco sales licenses. As such, the establishment will serve the 60 day suspension and will resume selling tobacco products on November 23, 2023.

Mosquito Control Plan: Acting Chairperson Gordon began by noting that the Board has made previous recommendations to the City Council regarding mosquito control and their recommendations have been dismissed. Mr. Gordon shared his concern that the Board will run into similar patterns going forward and proposed a working group to potentially be comprised of members of the Board of Health, conservation commission members and city council members in hopes to make all parties aware of the science, clear up misinformation, obtain public input and provide education. He opined that this should be done in the form of an open meeting. Board Member Leppo noted he would like to see a decision based on science and recommendations of the Board. Board Member Gattasso agreed. Rob Van Der Kar, Conservation Agent for the City of Pittsfield appeared and noted that there is enough interest in this topic and believes this is a good way to go. Board Member Leppo noted that effective communication between the three will be more likely to come to solutions based on best practices and scientific evidence and will also be the best way to serve the community. Mr. Van Der Kar noted that he will begin discussions to recruit some conservation commission members to the working group. A Motion to have Andy Cambi return to City Council to comprise a working group was made by Acting Chairperson Gordon and seconded by Board Member Leppo. The Board voted unanimously.

Health Department Updates:

Brazzuca's Tobacco Permit: Andy Cambi noted that the denial of the application at the October meeting needs a formal motion to retire the tobacco permit for this location. A Motion to retire the tobacco permit for 75 North Street was made by Board Member Leppo and seconded by Board Member Gattasso. The Board voted unanimously.

Rest of River Clean Up: Andy Cambi informed the Board that he has reached out to the EPA and Mass DPH to request they attend a meeting to provide education on this matter. They have agreed to do so.

Increased Petitions from City Council: Andy Cambi noted that the increase in petitions from city council members are not related to any immediate public health hazards but are mostly nuisance complaints. He further noted that although enforcement can sometimes be challenging, the nuisances are all being addressed.

Massachusetts Announcements of Public Health Standards: Andy Cambi noted that Massachusetts now has standards in public health. He discussed how to best approach coming into compliance with these standards. Mr. Cambi indicated that he would like to work on this publicly and with the administration in hopes of getting feedback. Mr. Gordon notes that this also will be an opportunity to educate the public about what the health department does.

Monthly Inspectional Services Report: Mr. Cambi reviewed the monthly inspectional services report.

Car Seat Event: Andy Cambi provided a reminder about the upcoming car seat event being held at 81 Hawthorne Avenue on November 4, 2023, for the proper installation of car seats as well as providing car seats as supplies allow.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Board Member Leppo and seconded Board Member Gattasso. The Board voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Layden, Clerk

Documents/Materials Distributed at Meeting

- Meeting Minutes of October 4, 2023
- Order to Demolish – 91-93 Orchard St.
- Documents relating to Gulf Food Mart DOR License suspension.
- Petition from Councilor Conant to the BOH regarding Mosquito Control Plan
- Brazzuca's Letter of Denial
- Massachusetts Announcement of performance standards for local public health.
- Monthly Inspectional Services Report