

Minutes
Pittsfield Board of Health
Wednesday, May 6, 2020
VIA ZOOM 997-5959-5623, 5:30 PM

Present: Chairperson Alan Kulberg; Board Members: Steve Smith, Katrina Medders, Brad Gordon, Kimberly Loring

Also Present: Health Department Director Gina Armstrong and Dominic Sondrini, Health Department Intern

Convening

The meeting of the Pittsfield Board of Health was held on Wednesday, May 6, 2020, via ZOOM. Chairperson Kulberg called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Review and Approval of Minutes: The Board reviewed the minutes of March 4, 2020 and they have been approved.

Ratify Board of Health COVID-19 Emergency Order, Effective May 4, 2020 Requiring Food Establishments to Establish Procedures for Ensuring Maximum Occupancy Levels, Social Distancing, and Facial Coverings: Chairperson Kulberg noted that the local order which became effective on May 4, 2020, is more specific with regard to enforcement and capacity limits, but noted that it is otherwise very similar to Governor Baker's order. It was noted that this Order went into effect as an emergency and required no vote to effectuate, however it does require a vote within 48 hours of the effective date. The Board reviewed the Order and noted that delivery persons should be changing gloves regularly. Chairperson Kulberg noted that Pittsfield Police Department has also been designated as agents of the Health Department for enforcement purposes. He further noted that education will be used to resolve violations prior to resorting to issuing fines/citations. If called to respond to a situation, Pittsfield Police Department will also be able to supply city residents with a mask to enter an establishment when needed. Board Member Smith questioned whether Health & Police Department staff are using state mandate or local regulations for enforcement purposes. Dr. Kulberg noted that some violations may fall under both. Ms. Armstrong noted that the local regulations are food establishment specific while the state mandate is specific to open public spaces. Upon a motion made by Board Member Gordon and seconded by Board Member Medders, the board voted to unanimously ratify the Emergency Order Effective May 4, 2020 Requiring Food Establishments to Establish Procedures for Ensuring Maximum Occupancy Levels, Social Distancing, and Facial Coverings.

Pittsfield Comprehensive Mosquito Control Plan: Chris Horton of Berkshire County Mosquito Control appeared and presented the 2019 program Annual Report and the 2020 Comprehensive Mosquito Control Plan. Mr. Horton explained what the Berkshire County Mosquito Control Project is, what they do, and why they control the mosquito population. He noted that the objective is to mitigate mosquito problems and disease before they affect humans and/or domestic animals. Mr. Horton noted that problem areas are done by mapping and then monitoring and eliminating larvae through enhanced drainage, treatment, fish access, etc. Trapping and testing are also done to monitor disease. Mr. noted that there was no flooding in 2019, and that 2019 revealed no EEE cases. He did state, however, EEE was very high in the state. He noted only one mosquito sample tested positive for West Nile Virus in Pittsfield. He noted that if source reduction does not work, then the breeding sources are treated. He further noted that treatment for adult mosquito control took effect in 2019. Mr. Horton noted that the plan of 2020 remains mostly the same, with two small revisions. The first is to eliminate language pertaining to backpack applications since this is no longer applicable since backpack applications were

eliminated in 2019. The second change includes the request for approval for a trial of a new product, Vectomax. Mr. Horton noted this a time released product in which application would take place in areas that a naturally formed in the environment. It is believed that this product, once applied, with the help of precipitation, would find its way into difficult to reach areas. The toxicity level of the product is low and that it may affect the applicator if they had an allergy to it. Board Member Medders questioned the “other ingredients”. Mr. Horton explained that these “other ingredients” are fermentation products which is believed to have organic certification. This product is applied to another organic material, a corn cob. It was noted that Mr. Horton will apply the product in a discreet area for a test period of one month in order to determine its efficacy. Mr. Horton noted that he will track the application during its life span which is 30 days by taking four (4) samples. If the results of the trial are not good, the product will not be used in the future. If good results are achieved, the study would be published and be made available to the scientific community. If the product works, it would become regular practice.

Upon a motion made by Board Member Kulberg and seconded by Board Member Gordon, the board voted unanimously to approve the 2020 Mosquito Control Plan as presented.

Also Discussed:

A motion made by Board Member Steve Smith and seconded by Chairperson Kulberg to table the topic of the update from Michael Perrault of Health Steps to a non-specified date was unanimously approved.

Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Board Member Gordon and seconded by Board Member Smith, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Provencher, Clerk

Documents/Materials Distributed at Meeting

- Meeting Minutes of March 4, 2020
- Emergency Order - COVID-19 Food Establishments
- Mosquito Control Related Documents