

**Meeting Notes from the Regular Meeting of the Peabody Board of Health,
February 25, 2021**

In Attendance: Chairperson Thomas J. Durkin III, Member Dr. Leigh Ann Mansberger, Member Anthony Carli,
Health Department Director Sharon Cameron, and Recording Secretary Lisa Greene.

The meeting was held remotely at 4:30 p.m. Via Zoom

Subject: Meeting to be called to order

Discussion: Mr. Durkin called meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

HEARINGS:

Subject: Hearing re: requests for variance from 105 CMR 435 regarding provision of lifeguards and projection into pool area at 1 Newbury St.; Votes anticipated to grant or deny variances.

Discussion: Ms. Cameron reminded the Board that the Holiday Inn management team had come before them the prior month on the lifeguard variance request and, at that time, the Board had asked them to submit a list of enhanced monitoring procedures for their pool. She also reminded that the state had identified that the steps into their pool were considered a protrusion and they needed to request a variance; the state indicated they would not be opposed to such a request. She reported that Bill Pasquale would need to do a reinspection of the pool. Mr. Pasquale joined the meeting. He told that the stairs are in the corner of the pool in the shallow end, and had been painted white, but there was supposed to be a black strip at the edge of every step, so the pool will have to be drained to do that. He explained that this is an existing condition, and has been there for a very long time, and on a new pool it would not be allowed, but the state inspectors from the state indicated that they would grant this waiver. He added that the operator is planning on draining the pool and painting the stripes and modifying the camera system, and will have a devoted monitor for the pool at the desk and a system to allow it to be monitored remotely. Mr. Durkin asked Mr. Smith, who was present representing Holiday Inn, if this was correct. Mr. Smith said yes, they will be draining the pool, and said that they expect that there will be a full reinspection adding that he wants the town to be comfortable with the pool. On the subject of cameras, they will have a remote monitoring system on a tablet at the front desk which can be taken with staff if they need to step away from the desk. He reminded that the back corner of pool had glare, and explained that they intend to have a second camera covering that section of the pool to ensure greater visibility under all conditions. He said that they are waiting for Board to give their opinion of that plan. Dr. Mansberger replied that she appreciates the tablet concept to monitor the pool remotely, but wonders if staff will be taking it away from the desk and would be putting the tablet down, and asked under what circumstances this could happen. Mr. Smith replied that one example would be if a guest needed towels, the staff person would briefly step away. Dr. Mansberger asked about new compliance signs, and Mr. Smith replied that, while not required for their pool but just for specialty pools, these signs that require people not to swim alone will be posted on their pool as well. Mr. Pasquale interjected that he wants to make sure that Mr. Smith understands that the Board wants the monitor to be devoted only to the pool, not for any other security purposes. Mr. Smith said that is the intention. Dr. Mansberger asked if they are sure that there are no blind spots. Mr. Smith replied that there are not going to be any blind spots, explaining that that's the reason for second camera. Mr. Durkin noted that a lifeguard is trained in CPR, etc., but he wondered if the person monitoring the pool is CPR certified. Mr. Smith said all managers are CPR certified, but agreed that this was a good point, adding that he will have all desk staff CPR certified as well. Ms. Cameron asked the Board members if they are satisfied with these additional safeguards, and added that she recommends that they approve both variance requests. She asked for clarification on one point, and said that the certified pool operator is not on site as frequently as required, and asked how they will address this. Mr. Smith replied that the assistant property manager, Jahara Santiago is taking the certified pool manager course. Ms. Cameron said that any vote take will be taken pending compliance demonstrated through reinspection. Mr. Carli made motion to approve both variances. Dr. Mansberger seconded. A roll call vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed to approve both variances.

Subject: Hearing re: request for variance from 105 CMR 435 regarding provision of lifeguards at 194 Newbury St. Boston Sports Club. Vote anticipated to grant or deny variance.

Discussion: Bill Pasquale told that Boston Sport Club is in the location of the old Latitude club in Peabody, and that the new company took over the space and reorganized it. Their pool was closed for a period of time, and that they are now asking to reopen it. He told that he had met with pool operator there and had found the pool to be in good repair, and that the chemicals are in good shape. He had noticed a camera in pool area, with a monitor at the front desk, but they had multiple security cameras throughout the club appearing on the same screen so the pool camera was the size of a postage stamp on the monitor. Eric Costa, representing Boston Sports Club, replied that they have already taken care of it and now have a dedicated screen just for the pool. Inspector Pasquale told that he had told Eric that the City will need a revised comprehensive plan on pool management etc., and that he believes that they have done one but said he would let Eric speak to this himself. He added that he has given permission for them to hold their learn-to-swim classes since a lifeguard is present for it, but have been holding off on letting them use the pool for other purposes until they hear the answer to their request for waiver of life guard. Eric Costa described their new comprehensive pool plan: there are five cameras in the pool area and a dedicated video monitor; a walk-through of the pool by staff is taken every 15 minutes, they regularly clean showers, they allow only one person per lane and 4 people in the pool at a time. Mr. Carli asked if staff are required to be CPR trained. Mr. Costa replied that all management staff and any front desk people opening or closing must be CPR certified. He added that there are always two or three people staffing front desk, that they also have a pool checklist where staff will lock up when the pool is closed, their cameras are motion detected, and managers will get an alert that someone is in the pool area, which is set to go off during hours when the pool is closed. Ms. Cameron asked if they will continue to have a certified dedicated lifeguard for their swim classes. Mr. Costa replied no, but said that all instructors are lifeguard certified, so there are always trained people there to assist. Dr. Mansberger asked if they plan to allow pool parties to be held there. Mr. Costa said no, they are not planning to have parties. Ms. Cameron told that, since we are here, she wanted to discuss complaints received from constituents regarding people not wearing masks during evening sports programs at the club. Mr. Costa said that they had a problem with that early on, but had implemented a two-strike policy, after which they will cancel club membership of anyone breaking the mask rules. He said that they now have a zero tolerance policy and have had to kick people out. Bill Pasquale said that he thinks these complaints were about people using the Basketball area and Soccer area at night. Ms. Cameron asked if they have signage about mask requirements. Mr. Costa said yes, throughout the club. Mr. Durkin asked if anyone else wishes to speak. A gentleman named Phil, the pool technician and one of the CPOs, also attended and expressed his support for issuing the variance. Dr. Mansberger made a motion to approve the variance, which Mr. Carli seconded A roll call vote was taken and it was voted unanimously to approve the variance.

Hearing: Application for Permit to Perform Body Tattooing submitted by Joshua Pelletier; Application for Permit to Perform Body Tattooing submitted by Jonathan Gardner. Votes anticipated to approve or deny permits.

Discussion: Joshua Pelletier and Jonathan Gardner were in attendance. Mr. Durkin asked Joshua to tell why he wants to receive a permit to perform tattooing. Joshua replied that he had always loved tattooing, that it has been a big part of his life for a long time, and that his first tattoo was not a sanitary experience and he wants to make sure that other people have a safe and sanitary experience, and added that he wants to be a part of the community. Dr. Mansberger asked about Hepatitis B shots. Joshua replied that he had taken the first series on the 8th, and that he will receive the next round on the 8th of March. Dr. Mansberger also asked for result of TB test which she did not see in the file. Ms. Cameron said that they are still waiting for results. Joshua said he did submit the results of that test but said that he would resubmit. Inspector John Yale said that he went over both applicants' packages and aside from finalizing the Hep B, everything is in order, both have had required trainings. Mr. Carli made motion to approve Joshua Pelletier's permit to perform body tattooing, and it was seconded Dr. Dr. Mansberger, who added that she is seconding but wants to see that approval is conditional upon TB results and want to see that second Hepatitis B shot is taken. Ms. Cameron said that the Public Health nurse also said to issue the permit conditional upon Hepatitis B shot being finalized.

Mr. Durkin asked Jonathan to tell why he is applying for this permit. Jonathan said he is very passionate about tattooing, that he had gone to art school, and said that this is an industry that he is very passionate about getting into. He told that he had grown up in Peabody, and he now wants to give back and have a good shop. Inspector Yale said that he spoke with the business owner about Covid Safety measures, and the owner has reviewed these with these two applicants, has posted protocols, requires disposable aprons, handwashing and mask wearing. Ms. Cameron clarified for the Board that for both applicants, this permit is only to serve an apprentice, and after the required hours

of apprenticeship are completed, they will have to come back before the Board to receive a permit to be independent tattoo artists. Dr. Mansberger made a motion to approve both applicants' requests for permit to perform body tattooing under an apprenticeship. Mr. Carli seconded, and a roll call vote was taken, all were in favor, and both permits were approved, with Mr. Pelletier's conditional upon the verification of the results of the TB test and with the requirement to submit the verification of the second Hepatitis B shot.

Hearing: request for variance from Federal Food Code, Karl's Sausage Kitchen, to allow for venison processing. Vote anticipated whether to grant or deny variance.

Subject: Inspector Yale explained that he had recently conducted a routine inspection at this business and learned they are processing venison for owners who had hunted; the processed venison will be for the customer's own use and will not be sold or served in the retail establishment. He and the owner had discussed the process and learned that the meat to be processed is coming from the hunters, and it is his understanding that, if the source of the product was not coming from a commercial source, as this isn't, they would need to request a special approval. He told that he had contacted state, and spoken to Diane Bernazzani, who said that they need to request a variance, so he had asked owner asked Bob Gokey to put together a flow diagram on how he receives products and a HACCP plan, which he had submitted. Mr. Durkin asked Mr. Gokey to tell about the process. Robert Gokey said that he did research on the issues that could possibly arise with hunted game animals, and learned that, if contamination were to happen, it would happen out in the field, and told that when he receives the meat it arrives frozen. He does the processing separately from all other operations that he performs in his store so there is no risk of cross contamination. Dr. Mansberger asked Inspector Yale if there are any compliance issues at Karl's. Inspector Yale replied that there were none. He told that their original HACCP plan didn't have sanitation language, so a Sanitation Standard Operating Plan was added to the plan and it now looks good. Mr. Durkin asked if just elk or deer are venison or are any other animals included. Mr. Gokey replied that venison means any game meat that can be hunted and eaten: Deer, elk wild boar, occasionally a bear, but 98% of it is deer meat. Goose hunters also bring breast meat from geese. Mr. Durkin stated that, for purpose of this variance, venison will be understood to be defined under the larger meaning. Mr. Yale agreed that the state code says that venison is any hunted foods. Mr. Gokey said that he has been doing this for so long but felt that it was good to take a look and make sure we are doing things well, and we are. Mr. Carli motion to approve the request for variance, and Dr. Mansberger seconded. Mr. Durkin asked if anyone had any other comments. There was no discussion on the motion. A roll call vote was taken, all voted to approve the request for variance.

Hearing: A request from Covanta for new source of ash for Peabody Ash Monofill landfill. Vote anticipated whether to grant or deny request for new source of ash.

Discussion: Daniel Peters from Covanta, Jackie Caceci from Tighe & Bond, and Jeff Thelen from Tighe & Bond were present. Jeff explained that this application is to dispose of residual ash from a waste energy facility, which is process bottom ash, combined with fly ash, a wet material. He told that he had compared the makeup of the residual ash with the state's policy on disposal. They found that the ash is not toxic, but that it has occasional metals in it, which would not allow for routine reuse. He told that fly ash has higher metal content. Ms. Cameron said that she had reviewed the report, and had shared with director of public services, but unfortunately they have not heard back from him yet due to a death in his family, so she had asked a representative from Tighe and Bond if anything in report that would cause a red flag. He told her that there was nothing that would raise a red flag. He added that Peabody already accepts ash and this ash is similar to materials already being accepted. Jackie agreed, saying that's correct, and the site assignment that Covanta has with the city requires that if Covanta was interested in introducing a new type of ash they need to come before the Board of Health. Jeff clarified that this was not a new product, just that it is coming from a new entity. Mr. Durkin asked if anyone present had any questions. Ms. Cameron asked if there is anything about the materials that would require any different monitoring? Jeff explained that Peabody's is a lined facility, so it is a best case to dispose here, adding that ash does not generate landfill gas. Steve Melloni, Covanta's regional landfill manager, asked to speak and told that he manages for Covanta, and this request does not involve increasing their footprint or tonnage, the material in question is similar to other materials already approved. He explained that they just added this one as a final Covanta plant in Massachusetts, to use as a backup for other facilities. Ms. Cameron asked someone to elaborate on email received re: minor modification. Jackie explained that process bottom ash is used as grading and shaping and daily cover, but it doesn't meet the requirements of Comm-

97 to be cover material, Covanta is now seeking to use it for such, but needs to go to the state and to request a modification. She explained that this is a gravelly material and is used at landfills all over as cover material. Mr. Durkin asked if anyone had any other questions. He asked if anyone in attendance wanted to speak in opposition? Ms. Cameron replied that no one was in attendance. Ms. Cameron recommended that the Board approve this request. She added that she would still like to connect with public services director, but said that she doesn't anticipate any issues, and said that it is ok for them to proceed. Mr. Carli made a motion to grant the request, Dr. Mansberger seconded the motion. Mr. Durkin asked if anyone would like to speak on this matter. There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was taken and the Board unanimously approved this request.

BUSINESS

Environmental updates

Subject: Rousselot complaints

Discussion: Mr. Durkin welcomed Linda Sapienza and Gary Less from Rousselot and said they were here to address recent odor complaints. Gary thanked the board for having them. He told that during the most recent complaints, they were doing maintenance work to one unit and they had to clear out materials to do this, so the materials were exposed to the atmosphere which generated odors. He told that the maintenance was being done to prepare for the spring/summer season. Gary said it has been a fairly decent last few weeks, with no major odor complaints. He said that for the few sporadic complaints, they found that they could be tied to when materials left their site by truck. He said the reports were sporadic, and that the odors were gone by the time their staff investigated, but the reports correlated with times of trucks leaving the site. Ms. Cameron said that DEP had implemented timelines under which Rousselot was required to submit some written materials. She asked if there were any documents that he could share with us. Gary replied that a report was submitted to DEP, along with information on several upgrades that had already been made, including biofilters which had been installed and were updated throughout the basin area. He said that DEP was happy with the progress they had made, and reported no issues with the systems. Unofficially DEP said that they were happy with the report, but they have not formally gotten back to us. He said that they, as a company, had decided to make the upgrades, and after they submitted the report, they had contacted DEP to make sure that, as Rousselot commits capital budget, the plans they were making and investing in were ok. DEP confirmed they were satisfied with everything proposed. He reported that, overall, as a very rough number, in 2021 Rousselot is looking to spend about \$2 million at the plant. Ms. Cameron asked if we can get a copy of the document. Gary replied that it is not public yet, since they are officially waiting for a response from Mass DEP. He told that one item they are waiting on is surface aerators. He told that before DEP came out they had already installed the surface aerators, but said they were leasing and planning to purchase, but need DEP to get back to us officially. He said that when they do, the report will become public record. Mr. Durkin asked if anyone present had any questions. None were received.

Subject: Approval of minutes - December 17, 2020 and January 28, 2021

Discussion: Dr. Mansberger made motion to approve both month's minutes. Dr. Carli seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken, and it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes.

Subject: Update on COVID-19 response actions

Discussion: Ms. Cameron reported that we are coming out of the surge, with new case numbers coming down. She told that we had a high daily incidence rate at one point of 110 average daily new cases, and they are projecting that this week there will be 35 new cases, so the city is close to moving out of the red. She explained that the combination of having an incidence rate of daily new cases and the percent positivity has kept us out of the yellow, adding that last week we were at 4.7 percent and need to drop to 4% positivity to move into yellow. She said that when she looks at today's numbers she hopes we have moved, but if not this week then should go down next week. She told that most new cases are happening in the younger age groups, most were from household exposures, and there has been a disproportionate impact on Hispanic populations and Portuguese speaking households. Summary of vaccination efforts: To date the department has held 13 vaccination clinics, and have utilized 89% of the doses

received. She told that the doses that remain are for second doses for next week's clinic. She reported that they have a great operation running, and that people are really pleased with the speed, efficiency and safety at that venue. Unfortunately, the Governor has made a decision to no longer provide doses to local boards of health, and has stopped providing it to all but the 20 highest risk communities throughout the state. This is incredibly frustrating for our residents. When Governor opened up next phase, 1 million people will be eligible, with an availability of just 139,000 doses per week. She told that the State on Thursdays opens up new appointments at mass vaccination sites, and all are booked within first 90 minutes of opening them up. Many residents that come to our local clinics walk to us, some walked with walkers, some who are blind, walked to Council on Aging, and some are not comfortable going to those vaccination sites even if we can provide them the needed transportation. There are definitely equity issues involved in maintaining access to local clinics. She told that she sits on a municipal vaccination group chaired by Lt. Governor Polito and HHS Secretary Sudders, and is one of 4 local health representative on that group, and all municipal and local public health reps are united in the message that local clinics should be able to play a role in the administration of vaccine. For now the state only wants local health depts to focus on those who are homebound and those in senior low income/affordable housing. The Health Department plans to vaccinate Peabody Housing Authority residents and has also offered to work with private affordable senior housing developments, but some have found other partners, but some still choose to partner with us. 5 clinics will be held over 2-3 weeks, including a small clinic for individuals living outdoors in Peabody. She expressed hope that we can play a bigger role as more vaccine becomes available. She told that the City has been offering testing 2x per week through Atlantic Ambulance. While 600-900 people originally showed up for these events, now we are getting about 100. At last update, the Governor has moved us to step 2 of phase 3, which means increased capacity limits and latitude for restaurants, and he will be opening up phase 4 soon, so larger functions, weddings, are on the horizon, contingent upon continued progress on public health metrics.

Subject: Rodent complaints

Discussion: Reviewed

Subject: Code enforcement updates: Chapter II: 40 County St; 107 Main St; 9 Proctor St.

Discussion: reviewed

Permitting updates

Subject: List of permits issued in January 2021

Discussion: Reviewed. Ms. Cameron told that some animal owners gave up animals due to pest control inspection requirement. Mr. Durkin said that it was to be expected.

Subject: Public Health Nursing updates

Discussion: Ms. Cameron told that the Health Dept held a public information event on Covid and the vaccine, a 90 minute program with doctors and the Public Health Nurse to build confidence in the safety of the vaccine. They hired a Spanish speaking and a Portuguese speaking nurse to translate live, so people could tune in and hear it in their native language. The event was recorded by Peabody TV, so people can find it and review it in all three languages. She told that we realize the disproportionate impact on these groups and want to take steps to help build confidence in the vaccine. Ms. Cameron said that they had some great feedback from the translators who told them that, for a lot of people who are hesitant to take the vaccine, it would be helpful to hear from people from their own community who they trust to say why they chose to get vaccinated or why they will, for example, protecting family members, patients, helping to move toward herd immunity, get back to doing normal things like going to the zoo or going to the beach. She said that she would not have thought to do this if we had not gotten that input from the translators. Mr. Durkin asked if it is still advised to continue to get tested if you have been fully vaccinated. Ms. Cameron said that the CDC says you no longer need to quarantine if exposed after vaccination, but the state has not yet adopted this, but it most likely would. Dr. Mansberger said she would think that if you don't have to quarantine then you don't have to be tested, but she is not sure.

Subject: School Nursing update

Discussion: Ms. Cameron told that the School Committee took a vote to return as many kids back to a full school week. Right now at the schools they are using 6-foot distance for social distancing, but the state and CDC say at least 3 feet of distance is ok. She told that the benefits of in-person schooling are important, and it can be done safely, predicated upon the fact that you are doing the other things, like masking and hand washing, etc. She told that they felt comfortable supporting this because of the strong contact tracing system in place. Many of the school-aged exposures are happening from outside exposures not from school, but home or sports, but now with smaller spaces, there may be times kids have to quarantine if in the 6 foot space. Lunches will be tougher since masks are off to eat. She said that this is a significant policy change in the city and wondered if the Board has any concerns. Mr. Durkin replied that the risks from kids not going to school has its own set of issues, so he is not opposed to the plan. Dr. Mansberger said that school has not been a great risk as long as everyone is wearing masks, and it is better to be in school. She told that she had read that there are actually more cases between staff members than in students. Ms. Cameron replied yes, and told that we had cases of teachers giving it to one another while eating lunch together or socializing off hours, etc.

CORRESPONDENCE

Subject: Correspondence

Discussion: Reviewed

Subject: Next Meeting March, 25th 2021@ 4:30 p.m. Meeting Adjourned: 6:05 p.m.