

**MEETING NOTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
OF THE PEABODY BOARD OF HEALTH
March 12, 2024 @ 4:30 p.m.**

In Attendance: Chairperson Thomas J. Durkin III; Members Anthony Carli and Julia Fleet, D.O. (virtually by Zoom); Health Department Director Sharon Cameron.

The meeting was held in the City Hall Lower- Level Conference Room at 4:30 p.m.
with public access also available remotely Via Zoom

At 4:30 Mr. Durkin opened the General Meeting, read the hearing notice, and welcomed everyone.

HEARINGS

Subject: (Scheduled for 4:30 pm) - Hearing re: Application to Perform Body Tattooing at Lake Street Tattoo submitted by Joseph Rodgers. Vote anticipated to grant or deny permit.

Discussion: Mr. Durkin read the hearing notice and opened the hearing. Mr. Rodgers was in attendance via Zoom and stated that he has been tattooing professionally for three years. He said he apprenticed and was later fully licensed in Lynn and also held a license in Derry New Hampshire. Mr. Durkin asked if any board members had any questions for the applicant. None were put forth. Mr. Durkin invited Ms. Cameron to ask questions. Ms. Cameron said she had reviewed the application materials and everything was in order. She said she had also contacted the Lynn Board of Health and there were no compliance issues there. She asked Mr. Rodgers to talk about the procedures he used while tattooing to prevent cross contamination. Mr. Rodgers replied that he begins by taking client paperwork; wraps the station in single use barriers; trays, stencils, ink are single use; wears gloves the entire time; shaves the skin area, applies the single use stencil, and opens the ink and needles in front of the client; performs the tattoo and then dries up the ink and use cup before disposing of it. He then changes into new gloves, wipes down the station with madacide and lets it sit for ten minutes, then put on new gloves to wipes everything off. He said at the end of the day he will wipe everything down again with 90% alcohol. Ms. Cameron thanked him and asked if he has ever had any disciplinary action taken against him in any of the other places he has been permitted. Mr. Rodgers replied that he had not. Ms. Cameron asked if he had ever had anyone return to him after a procedure with complications like infection and how did he handle it. Mr. Rodgers replied that he is not a doctor so he won't diagnose infections, but said sometimes if a person does not follow the aftercare instruction then the tattoo may not heal as gently as it should, in which case he will discuss again the aftercare procedures. Mr. Durkin asked if any board members had any further questions at this time. None were put forth. Mr. Durkin asked if anyone online had any questions for Mr. Rodgers as there was no one in the room, and said to please use the raise hand feature. No responses were received. Mr. Durkin asked if Mr. Rodgers would work in Peabody exclusively or will he continue to work in New Hampshire. Mr. Rodgers replied that he may do guest spots in New Hampshire from time to time but want to focus his efforts here. Mr. Durkin asked if anyone had any further questions or comments. Since none were received he closed the public hearing at 4:37 p.m.

Mr. Carli made a **motion** to approve Mr. Rodgers' application to Perform Body Tattooing at Lake Street Tattoo. Dr. Fleet seconded the motion. A vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed to approve the permit.

Subject: (Scheduled for 4:35 pm) - Hearing re: Application to Perform Body Tattooing at Speakeasy Gallery submitted by Arturo Luna.

Discussion: Mr. Durkin welcomed Mr. Luna to the meeting Via Zoom and explained that this is a public hearing. Mr. Luna said he has been tattooing for about 16 years and lives in Washington State and is licensed out there. He said he has also been licensed in several other places but with Covid has let some lapse, but said he used to be licensed in Cambridge and used to work at the Boston Tattoo company as a guest artist which is how he met the owner of Speakeasy and now he is looking to go and work with him in Peabody. He added that he had previously worked in Hawaii for a few years but his license has expired since he hasn't been there for a couple of years. He said he has a shop in Washington State but is hoping to be able to come guest spot back in Massachusetts.

Mr. Durkin asked if any board members had any questions for the applicant. None were put forth. Mr. Durkin invited Ms. Cameron to ask questions. Ms. Cameron said she had reviewed the application materials and everything was in order. She asked Mr. Luna to talk to them about his procedures for preventing cross contamination while tattooing. He replied that he follows standard safety procedures; he wraps everything in biodegradable plastic; everything he uses is one time use disposable; he uses Cavi wipes to clean his station; they have been using second skin to wrap people as after care which is working well keeping people from touching their tattoos. After he is done he will clean up, take off gloves and wash his hands and settle up with his client. Ms. Cameron asked what sort of conditions would cause you to not perform a tattoo on somebody. Mr. Luna replied that he would turn someone away if they had a sunburn or if they were sick and said you have to be well to get a tattoo. Ms. Cameron asked if he had had any disciplinary action against him in any of the places where he has been licensed. Mr. Luna replied no. Mr. Durkin asked if anyone had any further questions or wished to comment on this matter to please use the raise hand feature to be allowed to speak. No responses were received. Mr. Durkin asked Mr. Luna to tell a little about his plans. Mr. Luna he has a shop here but likes to travel to see his friends and makes sure he is licensed where he will be traveling to. Mr. Durkin asked again if there was anyone who wished to speak on this application. No responses were received.

Mr. Carli made a **motion** to approve the permit to Perform Body Tattooing at Speakeasy Tattoo Gallery submitted by Arturo Luna. Dr. Fleet seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed to grant the permit.

Subject: (Scheduled for 4:40 pm) - Hearing re: Regarding the Notice of Inspection and Order to Correct Violations and citation issued to Renee Morse for 10 Overlook Trail.

Discussion: Mr. Durkin read the hearing notice and opened the hearing at 4:46. Mr. Durkin said that this case was Inspector John Yale's and asked if anyone was present to speak on this matter. Ms. Cameron said she would speak on the matter on the inspector's behalf. She explained that the complaint came from a neighbor below this unit, and that the complaint was that the occupant of the dwelling allowed his two large dogs to urinate and defecate out on the back deck which would then leak through onto the complaining occupant's garage below the deck. Inspector Yale did go out with Inspector Medina and substantiated the complaint and he felt the conditions were very unsanitary and constituted a public nuisance. He issued orders to correct both to the occupant of the unit, James Rawding, who did not appeal, and to the unit lessee Renee Morse. Corrective action was not taken and they continued to hear from the complainant that the situation was ongoing. John went back later in February and documented

the violations again and took photos, which were presented to the board. The second time he issued a second set of orders along with a ticket for the second offense of \$100 each. The situation continues to remain ongoing. Yale did file an application for complaint over at Peabody District Court and that is where things stand. Mr. Durkin said the facts seem to be pretty clear, the photographs are pretty clear. He asked what Ms. Morse says is her basis of the appeal of the citation. Ms. Cameron replied that Ms. Morse says that she does not live there, that the occupant of the unit leased the apartment under false pretenses using Ms. Morse's identification. She says that even though her name is on the lease she has never occupied that unit. The occupant James Rawding is there under false pretenses and without her permission and he is the owner of the dogs. He has not responded to any of the orders that they have issued. Inspector Yale has knocked on the door and has heard people inside the dwelling but they haven't opened the door for him so they haven't had any direct contact with him. Renee explains that she is not responsible, and that she has been unable to get the occupant to stop having the dogs using the deck to relieve themselves. She expresses sympathy for the situation but says she has no ability to correct the situation. Mr. Durkin asked if Mr. Yale has given an assessment of her claim. Ms. Cameron said they do not have an independent assessment of that, but said Ms. Morse has an address in Danvers where she has been receiving her mail so she probably isn't living at this unit but she is the leaseholder so they are holding her responsible. Mr. Carli asked if they have spoken to the management company. Ms. Cameron replied yes, and they have issued an order to them as well. According to the management company they have a court date on Friday and are going to try to evict them. Mr. Carli asked if animal control can do anything. Ms. Cameron replied that they are aware of this but where it pertains to sanitary conditions it is not something that they are actively involved in. Dr. Fleet asked what the relationship is between Renee Morse and James Rawding. Ms. Cameron replied that Mr. Rawding is the boyfriend or ex-boyfriend of Renee's daughter who also lives in the unit and who, according to Renee, took her mother's identification to use to obtain the apartment under her mother's name. Dr. Fleet asked if there is an identity theft police report filed by Renee. Ms. Cameron replied that she doesn't know if Morse filed anything but just that she has reported to us that her daughter used her identification to get this apartment fraudulently. Dr. Fleet replied that just based on the pictures and the inspection report it does seem unsanitary and unsafe for abutters and people in that location. She said she thinks the violation should be upheld, but it sounds like it is still moving forward through other processes of eviction through the district court. Mr. Carli agreed that he hadn't seen anything that would make him inclined to do anything but uphold the order. Mr. Durkin said it would have been helpful to have heard from Renee Morse tonight, but said he would make sure to see if there was anyone on Zoom who wished to be heard on this matter. He asked if there was anyone on Zoom who wished to be heard on the matter of Renee Morris at 10 Overlook Trail. A raised appeared and Mr. Durkin invited Dan Horgan to speak on this matter. Dan said unfortunately he is the abutter, and has been in constant contact with Inspector Yale about this, has sent pictures today and nothing has changed. He said Ms. Morse is a constant liar. She is actually in and out of the apartment and was there last night as the residents were arrested on another matter which they can look up the police report for. He said he is obviously concerned about the unsanitary conditions, dog urine and feces rains down and he can not even park his car in his garage or parking spot. He said the management is aware of it but they are taking the eviction route which will take forever. He said he has been peed on walking in and out of his garage. He said his other concern he has is for the animal himself, he can hear the animal in there and it is a large animal and never goes outside. He said he originally contacted the dog officer on this and tried to remain anonymous but that didn't go anywhere. Mr. Durkin asked if anyone on Zoom wished to speak on this matter to use the raise hand feature. No responses were received. Mr. Durkin asked if the Board or Ms. Cameron had anything else to say on this matter. No responses were received so Mr. Durkin closed the public hearing at 4:57 p.m.

Mr. Carli made a **motion** to uphold the violations as presented for the 10 Overlook Trail property. Dr. Fleet seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed to uphold the violation order. Ms. Cameron asked if they will also uphold the penalties issued.

Mr. Carli made a motion to uphold the penalties, the \$100 fines, issued for the 10 Overlook Trail property. Dr. Fleet said she assumes that the fines will continue to accrue. Ms. Cameron replied that a fine for \$300 for a third offence was issued today and they are able to appeal that at a subsequent meeting. Dr. Fleet seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed to uphold the penalties in addition to the violation order.

BUSINESS

1. Subject: Approval of Minutes from January 25th and February 22nd, 2024 meetings

Discussion: Mr. Durkin asked if anyone had any comments on the minutes. Ms. Cameron reported that they did not have the February minutes but only had the January minutes today.

Mr. Carli made a **motion** to accept and approve the minute from January 25th. Dr. Fleet seconded the motion. A vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed to approve the January minutes.

2.) Subject: Environmental updates- a) Rodent control

Discussion: Ms. Cameron reported that the Mayor has put out notice about the Central Street project that is about to be underway. She said that this is one of the areas where they receive a lot of their rodent complaints from and this work is going to be incredibly disruptive. This is the first time in decades where they are actually reclaiming a street, that is, stripping it down to dirt and then repaving and will include a great deal of utility work as well. She said she is concerned about the impact of this on the neighborhood. The contractor has a pretty aggressive rodent control program and she will be walking the area with the vendor to keep an eye of things.

Subject 3. Regulatory Updates-a) Body Art Regulations

Discussion: Ms. Cameron reminded the board that starting last year they started working as a region with the eight north shore communities to update the body art regulations. The current body art regs are about 25 years old and predate many changes in the industry, for instance, microblading did not exist. She said they wanted to update the regs to be current with the state of the practice today and also to be more consistent across our communities in terms of what is required. She said they are hoping to finalize a draft on March 28th. She said it has been a long process but said that they have had meetings with tattoo industry representatives to weigh in on different things and have incorporated that input. She reminded that every board is going to have to vote to adopt the new regs and they are hoping that the boards will see the benefits of all being on the same page. She said she is hopeful that they won't see a need for a lot of changes. She said one of the changes they are thinking about making is to not require the artists to submit proof of TB testing and Hepatitis B vaccination. Ms. Cameron asked their thoughts on this. Dr. Fleet asked about the rationale for the change. Ms. Cameron said the changes were proposed by the Public Health Nurses, who state that there are a lot of other bloodborne illnesses that a tattoo artist can catch or transmit and we don't require testing for any other things. Dr. Fleet replied that she finds this interesting, but she sees body art as a kind of medical procedure and said her gut reaction is that anyone who is working where there is a potential to be exposed to bloodborne pathogens should be vaccinated for Hepatitis B and should be held to that standard. She said she knows there are exemptions for people who choose to not get vaccinated, so it is held to a little bit of a lesser standard than a medical procedure, but her overall sense is that it should be something looked at. Anytime a person is working in that close contact with anyone it is important to be tested. Ms. Cameron thanked Dr. Fleet and said she is going to bring that perspective back to the body art working group. She said she

would be fine with deviating from the working group consensus on something like this if the Board feels it is important to continue. Mr. Durkin said he would like to hear more than the argument that because we're not testing for all diseases then we shouldn't test for any. Dr. Fleet agreed. She said there is a great vaccination for Hepatitis B that is very effective, so if we have that available she felt they should be testing for it and putting this into practice, and we do not have a vaccination for hepatitis C or for HIV, so because we do have vaccines for Hepatitis B available and great treatments for TB it makes sense to continue to include these. Ms. Cameron said once they have a draft that everyone is in agreement on she would bring it forward to the board for discussion and then at a subsequent meeting hold a public hearing. Mr. Durkin asked if there was a body art trade association. Ms. Cameron replied that there is but they are national so they just reached out to local practitioners and asked for feedback while developing the draft regulations.

Subject 4. Code enforcement updates- a.)Housing: 168 Washington St; 21 Parsons St; 1 Avalon Dr; 5 Dustin St; 99 Central St.

Discussion: Reviewed.

Subject 4. Code enforcement updates-b.) Nuisances: 1 Newbury St; 54 Bartholomew St; 24 Willowbrae Dr; 5 Harris St;

Discussion: Reviewed

Subject 4. Code enforcement updates c.) Other: 92 Foster St; 18 Irving St;

Discussion: Reviewed.

Subject 5. Permitting Updates a.) List of permits issued in February 2024

Discussion: Ms. Cameron reported that they had been working with the City IT department to move their permitting system to an online system which is awesome. She said they have working on that for about a year and is hopeful that within the next couple of months they will be up and running with online permitting. Mr. Durkin asked if it is cloud based. Ms. Cameron replied that she is not sure if it is cloud based, but said the IT department found it and has been implementing it department by department. She said they met with the software company to tell them the features they needed and shared their permits with them. She said due to financial constraints they are not developing modules for all of their permits, but will for the biggest modules like the food and tobacco and things like that. She said others are lower priority, like they issue one skating rink permit and 10 manufactured housing permits so they are not going to invest in that at this point, but all of the big ones will get done.

Ms. Cameron said the other thing she wanted to mention on the subject of permitting was that they had misread their own tobacco permit regulation. She reminded that they had imposed a tobacco permit cap and a retirement clause. There was confusion over whether it says they would allow 48 tobacco permits plus one adult-only shop or if the 48 included the adult-only shop. They have since agreed that it was 48 including the adult-only shop but that was not how it was interpreted when they issued a new permit last week. She said there is a new cigar shop that they permitted last week that will be on route 114. She said the permit holder wanted to be an adult only shop but there are no adult only permits available, so they have a regular tobacco permit which requires that they have the products locked up in humidors and that sort of thing. She said they had met with the operator to educate them about these

requirements. She said they are currently maxed out with tobacco permits as they have 48 regular and one adult only permit, which means nobody can come in and open a new location for tobacco sales, as they are maxed out. When an existing permit is given up, it will be retired unless it is granted to an establishment at the same location.

Subject 6. Public Health Nursing Updates a.) February 2024 surveillance report

Discussion: Reviewed. Ms. Cameron reported that the CDC had changed their guidance around Covid isolation, and are no longer requiring a 5 day isolation period. She said the state hasn't changed its guidance yet, but the state follows the CDC guidance so it is just a delay due to bureaucracy that the state has not changed its policies yet. She said if an employee asks if they must stay out for five days she is comfortable telling them the CDC policy is that once you are fever free for at least 24 hours and are feeling better, they can return to work but have to wear a mask indoors for ten days. She asked if the Board is ok with that. Dr. Fleet said yes, following the CDC guidance makes sense. Mr. Carli agreed and said that makes sense and said it is what they have done throughout the pandemic. Ms. Cameron said she felt it was consistent with what they had been doing as well, and wanted to bring it to the Board's attention to make sure you agreed.

Subject 7. School Health Updates a.) February 2024 District Report

Discussion: To be reviewed next meeting.

Subject 8. Social Service Updates

Discussion: Ms. Cameron said clinician Melissa Rougier has only been with them for less than two months but already has forty cases assigned to her without having publicized the program, which shows that there is such a need for that type of service. She said all different city departments are referring to her: she has gotten cases from the police and fire departments to do door knocks after overdoses; she has gotten cases where public safety will tell us they went in on a wellness check and found hoarding conditions; the school department has used her because there was a family that was being evicted and they had no where to go and had a new baby so she brought them to sign up for food stamps and emergency housing and things like that. She said they are in the process of putting a widget on the city website to allow people to submit requests for service. They will be doing a press release to tell people to contact her if they need services and are having it translated into Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole and Albanian and that should be up within the next couple of weeks. She said in addition to that, the scholarship application is also going to be available either in paper form or by a widget on the website and will be translated into the same four languages.

Ms. Cameron added that they have about 620 people sheltered at the three hotels. They have been working to get people connected with primary care and that is an ongoing process, and now they are trying to get people connected with dental care and mental health care as well. She said they'd like to do a universal mental health screening to see if there are needs for services. She said there are needs that need to be addressed that aren't on anyone's radar screen. She said they have been talking to the state about possibly trying to do some triaging much as they did for the medical needs. She said she doesn't think they are going to get support from the state to do this, so they are trying to see if maybe locally they can put together a program to do that. She said that is just one of the areas that our social worker can focus on.

Subject 9. Grant Updates a.) We Care Project

Discussion: Ms. Cameron said that the We Care project will be ending at the end of the fiscal year. She explained that it was funded using contact tracing funding that they were allowed to divert to this use. She said it was a successful project in terms of people who are using it have found it to be very valuable, but it had very low participation rates and going forward it is not something they are able to prioritize. She said all of the We Care staff are working remotely so they are not as closely connected to the communities as it really needed to be for them to really promote the program. She said this project will be ending in June and we may revisit this later on because participants found it to be very valuable.

Subject 10. Correspondence a.) From Covanta re: Peabody Ash Monofill

Discussion: Reviewed.

Ms. Cameron reported that she had received an update from Rousselot after the Board's packet had already gone out. They notified the City that they have continued to meet their milestones. They met the milestone of ceasing discharge of product processing wastewater at the end of February. The following milestones are still left to be completed: by June of 2024 they will be cleaning up the bone preparation system, by April they will be cleaning up the wastewater treatment system, and the liming process system will be cleaned up in April, and as they complete those they will notify us.

Ms. Cameron reported that the Community Development Department had received funding from the state to do a municipal vulnerability planning process to address climate change impacts. She said they had done phase one a couple of years ago and that was really focused on a lot of infrastructure like culverts and pipes to move water away. In this phase two it will be focused more on social and public health impacts. They will be looking at vulnerable populations, those susceptible to heat or cold and who would not have the ability to go elsewhere and might be more vulnerable to diseases that might be more prevalent with climate change. She said she is on that committee and it is a really structured two-year process, and there will be more to come on that. They will receive funding from the state to implement a resiliency project.

Mr. Durkin asked if anyone had anything else to discuss. No responses were received.

Mr. Carli made a **motion** to adjourn at 5:24 p.m. Dr. Fleet seconded the motion and Mr. Durkin **adjourned the meeting at 5:24. p.m.**

Next meeting date: April 25, 2024