

**BOARD OF HEALTH
MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2023
COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM**

Attendance: Chair Bob Brazeau, Vice chair Cory Howard, Dick Skinner, Dave Balbi, Maryellen Brisbois (joined 14:00 TS), Agnieszka Podstawka, Public Nurse, Kristin Harris, Office Manager

Chair Bob Brazeau called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

1. (0:12 TS) New Hot Wok – 6 PM Discussion – Possible Votes

Danielle one of the food inspectors has had to conduct 3 inspections in the last 3 months (2 routine and one reinspection) and has provided the Board with those inspections and there has not been much improvement. She stated that colleagues of hers have gone to the establishment in the past and provided educational materials in their language and have explained to them through their son what is expected of them by the Board and the Health department. Danielle thought it pertinent they be brought before the board and maybe put a different action plan in place to try to get compliance because there is a lot of issues there. Mr. Brazeau asked if there has been any complaints, Danielle stated that has made a visit to another food establishment in town and they asked if she does food inspections for other food establishments in town and stated that they ate at Hot Wok and didn't feel well afterwards. The owners of The New Hot Wok attended the meeting and Mr. Brazeau stated to them that the board wants to help them get their establishment running in a clean and appropriate manner. Danielle provided the board with her recommendations so the board can decide what they would like to do. Mr. Brazeau asked the other food inspector Dan if he has had any encounters with the establishment, and he stated that his experiences were somewhat like Danielle had stated. He said he made a visit there and the conditions were somewhat poor and when he came back, they had made improvements but then upon another visit they regressed. They

have one food safety manager trained and certified which was obtained April 2021 and expires April 2026. The board discussed the food safety certification, and the board needs to see them making the changes they must make to be in compliance with state regulations. Mr. Balbi stated that the citing's of food temperature and other items are very important, and the board is wondering if there should be more training and doesn't know if it is a language barrier issue and needs to see the issue addressed immediately. Danielle thinks that something else needs to be done to get compliance other than drop ins and handing them material in their language. Mr. Brazeau stated that he will be making weekly visits to check in with the progress of addressing the issues. Mr. Howard asked if there are consequences for the three violations brought to the board to help them get in compliance quickly. Mr. Brazeau suggested handing them a \$65 fine when Danielle or Dan stopped in to check on the progress being made to address the issues and they still see violations. Mr. Howard suggested that the owners pay for the cost of the reinspection's that need to be done because of the violations. Mr. Skinner would like to implement Danielle's recommendation of the owners hiring a consultant that speaks Mandarin that can guide them through the process and make on the spot changes every day or every week and that the board receives monthly reports. This would be costly for the owner so it could take the place of paying for the reinspection fee. Kristin Harris stated that there is a \$65 reinspection fee that the town currently has. Danielle just wanted to make it clear to the Board that if she or Dan are doing the inspection then the town is not paying for it, it is paid through the grant. Danielle stated that this food consultant is usually on a 6-month contract and could cost upwards of \$1000. There was discussion on the food consultant and the Board wanted to stress the importance of getting these issues taken care of, and that if there is another inspection like the last that there

will be serious consequences. The board discussed if they fail spot inspections, they will be subject to pay the reinspection fee and will be shut down for x amount of days and they need to hire a food consultant to help them get on track with compliance. The owners agreed to hire a consultant to help them. In the meantime of finding a consultant they need to work on improving and addressing the violations in order to stay open and keep serving the public, and the Board will have another inspection done within 2 weeks. The owners stated that they have already started the improvements and they will do their best to get these issues resolved.

(56:30 TS) Motion that within two weeks the New Hot Wok must hire a Mandarin speaking food consultant for up to 6 months, they will pay the town a \$65 reinspection fee within the next 2 weeks and a monthly reinspection fee will also be paid until further notice, with the option of the board to waive the fee upon good report after review of the reports made by Cory Howard, 2nd by Dick Skinner. Mr. Skinner would like to amend the motion that if the reports are satisfactory the \$65 fee be waived. The Board decided to discuss the option to waive the fee later in review of the reports. All members in favor of original motion.

2. (1:09:00 TS) Health Agent Update

Mr. Brazeau stated that having Danielle and Dan to help doing the food inspections has been a tremendous help, they are doing a wonderful job and they are very professional. Mr. Balbi stated that he would like to join them for an inspection. Danielle is helping Agnieszka get trained to be a certified food inspector.

3. (1:12:10 TS) Nurse Update

The state has agreed to cover the cost of the 2 cell phone monthly bills, and this week Mr. Balbi, Ms. Podstawka and Ms. Harris are attending a meeting in Worcester for Public Health Emergency Preparedness which is a monthly meeting, and it is where they get help with getting supplies and other stuff. In the beginning of

May Ms. Harris and Ms. Podstawka are attending the Public Health Nurse Association conference in Marlborough, and it is open to the entire Board of Health and the conference cost is being covered by the grant. Mr. Balbi provided sharps containers for people that need them in the town. The board agreed that they all should take the class that is being offered to gain knowledge on the food inspection side and they will set that up for any board member that would like to attend. Mr. Balbi also mentioned the possibility of getting Board of Health ID's so that when they stop into an establishment, they can have proof of who they are.

4. (1:19:30 TS) EDS Drill Discussion – Trailer

They have rescheduled the EDS Drill a couple times but because of snow and athletics they had to cancel them. Mr. Balbi would like to get another one scheduled and he stated that they should have it done before June 30th, the end of the grant year. He would like this to involve the Fire Department and Police Department and the DPW and thinks the end of May beginning of June would be a good time. They should have the trailer soon they are just waiting on the insurance. They discussed the issue of the trailer town bylaw and it states no trailers, and there was talk about rewriting the bylaw.

5. (1:24:00 TS) Bills / Warrants Review

6. (1:24:25 TS) Transfer Station Discussion

The board is still waiting for Mr. Wojcik to put together the bid for the new contract. Mr. Brazeau visited the Sutton transfer station and there was one person running the whole operation, and the Douglas transfer station on a Saturday has 3 people working and they are all in the hut. The board discussed coming up with a written-out description of what the Board expects from them at the transfer station when they are working and decided that 2 workers at a time should be good with one up top and one down bottom. They are going to ask the transfer station workers to

come in for the next meeting. Mr. Brazeau will try and meet with Mr. Wojcik about the transfer station contract because they are getting short on time.

Upcoming Meeting: May 8, 2023

(1:37:10 TS) Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Dick Skinner, 2nd by Dave Balbi. All members in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephenie Gosselin