

Princeton Board of Health
Monthly Meeting
April 21, 2015
Monument Hall – East Meeting Room
One Monument Drive, Princeton, NJ 08542

Present:

Board Members:

Lauren Babcock Dunning, MPH
George DiFerdinando, M.D
JoAnn Hill, RN
Laura Kahn, MD
Charles Rojer, M.D., Chairman
Linda Schwimmer, Esq.
Linda Steiner-Sichel, MPH
Rick Weiss, MS

Staff:

Jeffrey Grosser MHS, HO
V Bea Snowdon, MS

Liaisons and Guests:

Jorge Armenteros, *A Little Taste of Cuba*
Eric Blomgren, *NJGCA*
S.Chourney, MD. *Sustainable Princeton*
Alexander Jow & Colleagues - *PU*
Student Health Advisory Board
Kam Modh, *Princeton News Stand*
Nicole Mulvaney, *Times of Trenton*

Absent:

Steven Miller, PhD

I. Call to Order

At 7:34PM, Chairman Rojer called the meeting to order by affirming: “This meeting of the Princeton Board of Health has been duly advertised and is being conducted in compliance with all provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.”

II. Roll Call

During the formal roll call, the absence of Steven Miller was noted.

III. Public Comment & Guest

Chairman Rojer opened the floor to the public with a welcome.

Eric Blomgren chairman of the NJGCA spoke in opposition to the *Tobacco 21* ordinance. He cited its denial of the rights to people who can vote, serve in the military, marry, pay taxes, and more. He stated that smokers could drive to other tobacco retailers, in surrounding municipalities, which will add traffic to our roads.

Mr. Blomgren added that the NJGCA would actively support legislation to ban cigarette and e-cigarette sales to anyone under the age of 19, since smokers start earlier than the age affected by the ordinance under consideration. He feels the municipality needs to enforce the current laws, instead of hurting honest business owners.

Kam Modh, owner of the *Princeton News Stand*, added his support for Mr. Blomgren’s views. Mr. Modh believes that smokers under 21 will simply drive to other towns, or send older friends to purchase cigarettes for them.

Jorge Armenteros, luxury Tobacconist and owner of *A Little Taste of Cuba*, explained the view of an artisanal business selling handcrafted items. He emphasized that his business has and will always obey all laws. His unique products are enjoyed, by people in moments of celebration. Mr. Armenteros

expressed the sadness of many people, by stating that the proposed ordinance might take away the memory and experience of artisanal products, which are “not addictive products per se”.

Stephanie Chourney, pediatrician and resident, shared her view that it is wise to make NJ tobacco free, by stopping the sale of things that will be addictive and damaging to young people.

IV. Minutes - March 26, 2015

Dr. DiFerdinando motioned to approve the March minutes. Ms. Steiner-Sichel seconded his motion. All voted in favor of the action to accept the minutes as submitted.

V. Monthly Reports

Health Officer’s Report

The updates for March and April inspections were delivered. 22 satisfactory food inspections were conducted.

The YMCA pool was closed for the second time in three months, due to a microbial heterotrophic plate count exceeding 200 colonies/1mL sample. The pool was reopened after chlorination of the pool and a satisfactory sampling of the pool two days later. A miscommunication was discovered between staff members, regarding routine pool testing and evaluation of results. The Health Department has ordered a plan of action from the YMCA, in order to avoid similar problems in the future.

Global Health Princeton provided training for the Health Department staff, in a Meningitis B seminar. A former *Princeton University* student and current professor from the Division of Epidemiology at the University of Minnesota, Dr. Nicole Basta, presented the seminar. Dr. Basta discussed the process of menB vaccine approval and distribution throughout the country.

The Public Health Nurse audited the vaccination records of Stuart and Princeton Nursery School. Both schools passed the audit.

41 dogs and 12 cats were vaccinated in March, for a total of 53 animals. Coyote behavior and White Nose Syndrome (in bats) were discussed as possible wildlife health concerns. The Animal Control Officer position will soon be posted for new candidates.

VI. Old Business

Environmental Updates

Stephanie Chourney, *Princeton Environmental Commission* (PEC) member, spoke about the benefits of decreasing the amount of waste we send to landfills and into the environment. In addition to the *Fracking Waste Ban Ordinance*, issues that PEC has actively supported were shared:

The Municipal Attorney is now reviewing the *Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance*, before its release to the public. PEC has voted in favor of passing this bag ban ordinance. Language allowing a charge for bags distributed, and language declaring what recycled bags will be made of, will be in the ordinance. Dr. Chourney expressed PECs desire to obtain a letter of support for this ordinance from the Board of Health. Ms. Bidwell Bates asked when Board Members would be able to see the actual ordinance.

The *Leave the Leaves Campaign* asks that residents allow fallen leaves to remain on their properties. Stating that it is “dangerous for leaves to be in the street”, Dr. Chourney added that residents might instead leave them in place or remove them in containers. Dr. Kahn shared a question and concern about the increase of vermin, arthropods, and insects from leaf / compost piles.

A recent memo from PEC asks that Princeton implement more ways to keep waste out of landfills. This can be achieved by enforcing the current laws for recycling, and placing recycling bins next to every public trash can.

Strategic Planning Update

The final strategic plan will be sent out to Board of Health by the end of April/early May, with hopes of including it in the accreditation application by early May. Mr. Grosser thanked everyone who has helped; sharing that he is very excited to see this new process moving forward.

Preventing Tobacco Addiction

The *Tobacco 21 Ordinance* was formally reviewed, in its second reading.

Dr. DiFerdinando reported that increasing age of sale to 21 would result in 223,000 fewer premature deaths, in those who were born between the years 2000-2019. He emphasized that the real impact of the ordinance is that it takes cigarettes away from the age group of initiation. Even middle school aged children in Princeton are now using nicotine products. Dr. Rojer added that much chronic pulmonary disease and illnesses from second hand smoke might be prevented by the age of sale increase. All noted that this type of ordinance is likely to keep increasing across the country, due to clear statistics from health data.

Dr. DiFerdinando moved to adopt the ordinance to increase the tobacco age of sale to 21 years of age. Mr. Weiss seconded that motion. All eligible members present voted in favor of the action to adopt the Tobacco 21 Ordinance.

Environmental Waste Ordinances

Mr. Grosser reported that the *Fracking Waste Ban ordinance* is still under legal review. It will be distributed to the Board members once legal has completed this review.

Regarding the Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance, Ms. Schwimmer shared that the bag charge is “inappropriate”, because it is an imposed charge and not discretionary. Even it is called a “charge”, the nature of the ordinance effectively makes it a tax.

Dr. DiFerdinando stated his strong objections to this ordinance, since it includes waivers, income assessments, and other awkward features. He favors a total ban.

Dr. Kahn suggested that Princeton just ban plastic bags altogether, as done by communities in California.

The enforcement agent and enforcement mechanisms for this proposal were also discussed. Agreeing that the inability to see and review the actual ordinance makes it hard to support a letter, all Board Members present decided to postpone the signing. The Board members look forward to seeing the ordinance, once the legal review is complete.

VII. New Business

Waste Management

Mr. Grosser reported that the *Mercer County Improvement Authority* has been looking at all of the matters regarding waste and recycling. Board of Health ordinances will be reviewed and updated for improved waste management approaches where possible in the coming months

VIII. Reports From Committees

Representing the *Princeton Alcohol and Drug Alliance (PADA)*, Ms. Steiner-Sichel shared that Princeton Police administered NARCAN to a heroin overdose victim. This action saved a life. This success was due to the training given to both police and emergency responders. It was sadly noted that there is no mandated follow up, for drug-addicted individuals, after overdose episodes.

Work on an underage drinking ordinance is in progress. Counseling may be included within the ordinance.

IX. Revision and Adjournment

Tobacco 21 Ordinance Revision

Chairman Rojer motioned to amend Section 1 Part B of the *Tobacco 21 Ordinance*, by deleting the redundant second sentence. Dr. DiFerdinando seconded this action. All eligible members voted in favor of removing the sentence.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Dr. Kahn motioned to adjourn. Mr. Weiss seconded this motion, with all present voting in favor of this action. The meeting adjourned at 8:46PM.

Respectfully submitted, V Bea Snowdon, MS