



City of Rochester, New Hampshire

Building, Zoning & Licensing Dept.

33 Wakefield Street * Rochester, NH 03867

(603) 332-3508 * Fax (603) 330-0023

Web Site: www.rochesternh.net

MINUTES OF THE ROCHESTER BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING OF JUNE 20, 2018

Chair Moon called the meeting to order at 3:38 p.m. in the City Hall Annex Isinglass Conference Room.

Roll Call:

The secretary conducted a silent roll call.

Members Present

Thomas Moon

Jackie Fitzpatrick

Jim Grant

Members Excused

Jocelyn Caple

Toni McLellan

Also present: Julia Libby, Secretary of Building, Zoning, and Licensing Services

Bob Veno, Health Inspector of Building, Zoning and License Services

Sandra Keans, City Councilor

These minutes are the legal record of the meeting and are in the format of an overview of the Board of Health meeting. It neither is intended nor is it represented that this is a full transcription.

The minutes of March 28 were reviewed; Mr. Grant made a motion to accept the minutes with amendments, Dr. Moon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Mr. Veno informed the Board of the past months' events. He mentioned a few establishments that have closed in the past three months as well as two new establishments that have come to Rochester. He said that the scoring system is going really well for most restaurants and that he is seeing great improvements. Mr. Veno is still working with a few problem restaurants closely, trying to get them into compliance.

Chair Moon asked the Board if they have anything to add or had any questions for Inspector Veno, no one did.

Councilor Keans began to speak about why she attended the Board of Health meeting. She stated that her phone is ringing constantly with complaints against Mr. Veno and the Building, Zoning, Licensing Department. She said that people are saying they are not getting friendly visits and that she thinks it needs to be a friendly visit. She expressed that she does not think that the Health Inspector should be closing restaurants next day nor should the inspection reports or scores be posted online. Mr. Grant said that his office has not closed any restaurants. Councilor Keans said to Mr. Grant that the City Council had ordered him to lay off the restaurants. Mr. Grant did not recall that directive from the Council.

Chair Moon expressed to Councilor Keans that the policies and procedures that the Board is trying to put into place is brand new to everyone and there will be some initial problems.

Mr. Veno asked if he could chime in, and informed Councilor Keans how he inspects an establishment. He said that he does not go in any place picking on them; he simply enforces the food code that the City has adopted for the State of New Hampshire.

Councilor Keans said that that codes that are enforced should be provided to food establishments. She also expressed that she felt the City should be educating establishments and doing ServSafe classes for them. Mr. Veno said that ServSafe classes are eight-hour classes that cost \$150.00 per person, and would put a huge burden on the City. He did however say that he is constantly sending establishments links to different food safety classes they can take, and it's also posted on the Health Page. Councilor Keans suggested that someone from the restaurant business be required to be on the Board of Health.

The Board let her know that the Food Code is published on the Board of Health webpage, which anyone has access to. Dr. Moon and Ms. Fitzpatrick agreed that someone from the restaurant business on the Board is a good idea, but Mr. Grant said that the City Charter would need to be changed. He suggested that Councilor Keans could maybe help with this; she stated that changing the City Charter is almost impossible.

Mr. Veno and the Board explained a bit more to Councilor Keans their goal for food safety. She had to leave around 4:45.

The Board continued to discuss having people from the restaurant business on the Board of Health. Mr. Veno expressed concern with having them as a voting member since there is a conflict of interest. He said just like him not voting, a restaurant owner should not be voting either. Ms. Fitzpatrick suggested that they could be like an ex officio that is on a Board but does not vote.

The Board decided to wrap things up for the day. They will talk more about this subject next meeting as well as tighten up the scoring and scoring policies.

Next meeting date will be September 5th, 2018.

Mr. Grant motioned to adjourn at 4:50 pm, Ms. Fitzpatrick seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Libby

Julia Libby, Secretary of Building, Zoning, and Licensing Services