



William Martin
Mayor

City known as the Town of
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

GREENFIELD BOARD OF HEALTH

Town Hall • 14 Court Square • Greenfield, MA 01301
Phone 413-772-1404 • Fax 413-772-2238
www.greenfield-ma.gov



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Members:
Steve Adam (2019)
William Doyle, M.D. (2020)
Kelly Dixon, MSN, RN (2021)

Board of Health – Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2018

2nd Floor Community Room, 20 Sanderson Street

5:30 PM

Present: Dr. William Doyle, Chair
Steve Adam
Kelly Dixon

Also Present: Jasmine Ward, Health Administrative Clerk
Mark Snow, Building Commissioner
Mark Smith, Chief of Staff
William Martin, Mayor
Chris Williams, Deputy Chief
Robert Haigh, Police Chief

Documents:

a. Department of Public Health – Minimum Standards of Fitness for Human Habitation (State Sanitary Code, Chapter II)

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dr. Doyle @ 5:29pm.

2. New Member:

Kelly Dixon, New member of Board of Health Introduced

3. Re-organization of the Board of Health:

Doctor Doyle starts by addressing the crowd on how proud he feels to have been a part of this Board and to serve as Chair. Mentioning's of accomplishments of BOH has made in his time as chair. Mayor Martin Thanks Doctor Doyle for his service as Chair. Doctor Doyle recommends Steve Adam as Chair.

MOTION: on a motion by Doctor Doyle

DD: Aye

KD: Aye

VOTED: Steve Adam new chair of the Greenfield Board of Health

SA- speaks of prior experience with Town of Orange

Served as Town of Orange, MA Chair for Board of Selectman, a member of Orange BOH, and an Assessor; states needs of Orange community "very very different" from the City of Greenfield

4. Signing of Past Board Minutes:

June 6th & June 12th Meeting Minutes approved

5. Homeless Encampment on Greenfield Town Common:

MM- I want start by saying that you all are running a difficult department right now with the town council budget cuts to the department of \$52,000, and still stay on track with state mandates and the mission. I Want to thank Jasmine and Cheryl for doing a fantastic job keeping the department going and going above and beyond taking on a number of tasks, and learning as they go but maintaining the momentum with the help of the Board and Building Inspections Department. We are here tonight to reaffirm the abilities and authorities of the Board of Health. I come with two basic questions. Have you, the board been approached and asked to permit the temporary housing on the common? If that is negative my second question is, would you consider issuing of a Cease and Desist order? Mayor continues by sharing with the Board strategies that have been put into play to address the homeless issue. There was a resource fair held that made those on the common aware of services and assistance that is available to them. There was also a round table held with the leaders of nonprofit organizations and other agencies that receive funds to tend to the individuals and the concerns of the common. . Currently there are proceedings towards securing a building for temporarily housing of the individuals on the common. Captain Peabody of the Salvation Army is working alongside the town to provide some funds for the individuals to deal with specific issues and their housing needs. There have been a lot of complaints made at the town hall regarding the tenting on the common.

SA- the Board of Health/ Health Dept has not received a lot of complaints or inquiries; I believe that the calls have leaped over the Health Dept because callers are aware that there is not a Health Director around.

Shares with the board two issues he see's 1) could affect potential business growth in the City. 2) It brings the homelessness to the forefront. I have heard that needles are being found on the grounds, despite a needle exchange nearby and feces are being thrown over the fence behind the church. It is a public safety issue the board will need to define if it is to be considered Camping or Temporary Housing. To answer the Mayors question; no, no one has asked legally to stay on the common. 105 CMR 510 and 410.430 can enforce cease and desist of the encampment on the town common. I think it all comes down to defining what this action that they are doing on the common really is; Are the people living there as temporary housing? Or are they there camping out? Sounds like semantics but if we as a board determines that this is in fact temp housing we have the right to site the law and tell them to move along. State sanitary code, trumps the town code.

DD- how does this affect anyone else that is living in a temp tent or fairgrounds?

SA- typically that is acceptable because it is on private property or with a permit

Its been nearly one month since the temp housing on the common, correct?

CH- the first response to tenting on the common on was on July 18. Tents were up prior to that but that was the first time we were called out to the common.

DD- well, one of the issues is that we do not have a qualified inspector as the moment that can examine the tents, all of the things you have mentioned are certainly problematic to business owners in Greenfield. About ten years ago in the winter Nicole Zabko, former Health Director on behalf of the BOH, made an inspection at

the Second Congregational Church, and basically gave permission for people to stay there, however that included volunteers to supervise the situation. That's the only experience I've had with the BOH acting and being involved with temp housing for homeless.

SA- We have had people that have come before the board that needed to be granted a variance to live in their mobile home with sewer connections after losing their home to a fire. That was a temporary housing situation.

DD- Do we have a home that is ready? Will all of these families be moving in.

MM- not all of the people will want to go to a shelter. Not all are from the area, or have dwelling units already, or will not accept the structured environment. We will not know until we speak individually with all of them. Captain Peabody has already spoken with everyone and taken inventory of everyone's housing needs.

Greenfield, as a municipality, does not have a housing authority. It's not in the operating budget.

Peter Shareton; Greenfield Resident- I am actually here on a last minute whim. I want to start by saying let's just get them off the grass. Their dogs are defecating, they are spitting all over the grass. I think that if the BOH wants to do this that are the ultimate authority. I am aware that there are lots of mandates that you are able to enforce. There are agencies that are ready and willing to help the homeless. From a municipal standpoint, I think the town government somehow some way needs to get together to get them off the grass.

MM- I would argue that the opposite of Temporary Housing is permanent

MSnow- A permanent housing would include permanent living features such as cooking fixtures, sleeping and living quarters

DD- who would enforce the Cease and Desist?

CH- Trespass issue would be left for Police to enforce

MM- Suggests Aug 20 (48 hours after)

DD- town council was possible going after special permit

CH- not new information that BOH/ Health Dept can enforce DPH law

MM- Safety issue; Hep C

CH- argues that we are obligated, to protect the Greenfield population both on and off the common

SA- If a fully staffed dept existed this issue wouldn't be as large as it is

KD- as a nurse deeply concerned with the health issues. Concerned by the dead line to vacate the common, Agree that one-on-one services are needed, 2-3 weeks for temp housing services is concerning.

MM- still requirements that need to be met with the building owned by CSO

DD- our health inspector that still hasn't inspected it is new and still inexperienced

MM- approved as ground home. Health inspector will need to look at codes for how many can stay within that space.

KD- would like to make sure the re-homing issue is addressed first

SA- need to make a motion on defining if it is Temp housing

MSmith- If it is temp-housing, therefore BOH enforcement

MOTION: on a motion by Doctor Doyle

DD: Aye

KD: Aye

SA: Aye

VOTED: motion that people That Greenfield Board of Health Determine that people living in tents on the Greenfield Common are in violation of 105 CMR 410.020

Motion # 2

That the Greenfield Board of Health find that the people living on Greenfield Common are in violation of 105 CMR 410.430 which states that "No temporary housing may be used except with the written permission of the Board of Health" as no permission was sought nor was it granted in any way by the Board of Health.

MOTION: on a motion by Doctor Doyle

DD: Aye

KD: Aye

SA: Aye, Unanimous

KD – I have a question. Mayor, I know you said you have people lined up and ready to sign up, how many people do you have?

MM – we are using the number 18 – Capt. Peabody will be helping out.

Motion #3

That the Greenfield Board of Health hereby order that all tents be removed effective 9AM of August 20, 2018- if not sooner, and that Cease and Desist Orders to that effect be prepared and served by the person or persons designated by the Mayor of Greenfield to act in the absence of a Board of Health Director. Further, that said Cease and Desist Orders be served no later than the end of business on Friday, August 10, 2018.

KD – My concern is timing. What if building does not pass inspection?

MOTION: on a motion by Doctor Doyle

DD: Aye

KD: Aye

SA: Aye, Unanimous

DD – Who are you going to designate?

MM- I just designated Mark. If we can I will have to talk to the chief to see what the potential is for a non uniformed person or could be Capt. Peabody and myself. I haven't really decided yet and I will follow your votes to the letter. We will try to keep it non traumatic.

DD- yes we don't want people pulled out of the tents. We've got to win with public health and maybe public health will carry this. I think it will.

KD-Is there a second building as an option if this group home doesn't work?

MM – Yes there are apartments but the problem with them is they are there and then they are not. There are certain decisions that go with getting an apartment. Length of time and assistance that go with it. There are personal decisions that are made when you go with those programs.

KD- Several of the people I've worked with that are not necessarily staying on the common in tents but are staying in vehicles. Are we addressing any of those people who are able to talk to someone about housing.

MM – we don't have a housing department for the City. We are doing this for this group of people. Housing is difficult.

KD-I'm just concern because they haven't received help.

MM – Councilor Ricketts brought up that concern because people who are already waiting for housing will be put in second position. So we are trying not to do that. We’re trying to do temporary housing and if we have the ability to take in anyone else, certainly no one will be turned away and Capt. Peabody is putting in a couple of new systems for people to find a place to stay.

DD – So this was duly noted in our agenda that this discussion was known to the public and we are not pulling a fast one.

SA – And literally the motions that I prepared. I came in and gave them right to Jasmine so that we could have motions in play correctly...dot the i(s) and cross the t(s). This was in less than 24 hours that this came up to me.

MOTION: on a motion by Doctor Doyle

DD: Aye

KD: Aye

SA: Aye, Unanimous

SA – duly noted that some of the board members have some misgivings but we will make sure this is not heavy handed.


SA – Motion to Adjourn

Adjournment: 6:49 PM

5. Next Meeting Dates:

October 9, 2018

Respectfully Submitted,



Approved: BOH Chair, Steve Adam



Date

DISCLAIMER:

The minutes produced are a rewritten reproduction of events from past Greenfield Board of Health meeting and may not reflect the total correspondence at that time. While every effort has been made to provide useful historical information supported by the most valid syntheses of the relevant meeting, the information provided may not be a full account.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY BE CALLED

Please note that the list of topics was comprehensive at the time of posting, however, the public body may consider and take action on unforeseen matters not specifically named in this notice. Posted in accordance with M.G.L.c 30A § 18-25.

