



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

DOUGLAS KRESS
DIRECTOR

MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
March 18, 2021
Open Conference / Virtual Meeting

Present:

Douglas Kress, Director
Brian Green, MD (Chair)
Paula Machado, Board Member
Robert Ciccio, Board Member

Isd: Ade Solarin

Absent:

Kathy Teixeira, Recording Secretary

Guests: Seven (7) attendees

Meeting Called to Order:

On a motion made by Dr. Green, the meeting was called to order at 6:02pm. It was seconded by Mr. Ciccio.

Approval of Minutes: None

Washoku Variance: A variance request for Accified Rice process was presented to the Board. After review, the Board voted to grant Washoku Restaurant a variance for Accified Rice. A vote was taken – All in Favor.

FOG Regulations Update/Approval: Requirement from the EPA, the city's Board of Health along with Inspectional Services Department is working on the Fats, Oils, and Grease for approval. Mr. Solarin, presented slides to the Board on FOG Regulations. The city had to file an extension with the EPA in order to meet their deadlines. A dialog among Ade and board members Robert and Brian questions on certain wording in the regulations such as penalties, sanitation, etc. Some of the highlights of the slides included

- a.) When fats, oils, and grease not disposed of properly, fog forms thick layers inside sewers lines constricting the flow thereby resulting in sewage backup and overflows and fog can also cause harm to the biological phase of the city sewage treatment plant.
- b.) Types of fogs – animal or vegetable organ builds up on sewer line walls causing the lines to be become clogged resulting in sewer line backups and comes from home, apartments, child care facilities and restaurants (largest fog generator)
- c.) Addresses the enforcement procedures for non-compliant facilities including the ability to assess fines for violations of the city's FOG program and the city's sewer use ordinances.

COVID19 Updates: As of February 26, Somerville remains in limited phase 3 step 1 reopening. Somerville continues to be in the yellow zone and Revere is in the red zone. There are 680 patients hospitalized for covid19 and 42 new confirmed deaths. In Somerville case data as of 03/11/21 there are 4,880 positive confirmed cases 322 positive probable cases and 75 fatalities. Students and staff are coming back to school in-learning and testing is ongoing. Working with the Athletics Dept. testing athletes. The vaccines rollout by the state city is limited in getting vaccines over the past 2 weeks Working with immigrants to reach out to get the non-speaking English residents their vaccines. Working with affordable senior housing with vaccine clinics. One site in Somerville right next to Target on Somerville Avenue and a site will be added to Tufts University. The CVS in Margon Square will soon be providing vaccines. Joe Lynch will begin March 1, 2021 performers strict guidelines, until further notice no in-door performances only outdoor with strict covid19 guidelines.

Next meeting – Virtual

April 15, 2021 @ 6:00pm

Adjournment:

On a motion made by Dr. Green, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm. It was seconded by Ms. Machado.

List of Documents:

Notice/Agenda, FOG Slides, Covid19 Slides

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Henkle-Teixeira
Board of Health Secretary
April 20, 2021