



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

DOUGLAS KRESS
DIRECTOR

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

Present:

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

City Staff – Bonny Carroll, Tobacco Director
Matthew Mitchell – Prevention Director
Lily Doyle – Social Worker
Colin Zeigler – Environmental Coordinator

Guests: 4

Meeting Called to Order:

On a motion made by Dr. Green, the meeting was called to order at 6:00pm. Ms. Machado seconded it.

Approval of Minutes: The October 21, and November 18, 2021 minutes postpone for approval until next meeting.

Tobacco Regulation Updates: The proposed tobacco regulations were presented to the board members for review. Below is some of following language that was added to the regulations to be consistent with the state's regulations.

1. Add Smoke Accessories to "Restricting the Sale of o Tobacco Products"
2. Add definition of Blunt Wraps
3. Add to Cigar definition "tobacco leaf in such kits or roll your own packages shall be consider "blunt wraps"
4. Add definition of rolling paper under section "Retailer"
5. Add definition of Smoking Accessories
6. Definition added to Tobacco Product Flavor Enhancer – "A rolling paper with a charactering flavor shall be considering a tobacco product flavor enhancer.
7. Add "Vape Bars"
8. Add the word "indoor" to Section E (Tobacco Product Sales Permit) # 1
9. Add #9 – "A tobacco product sales permit will not be renewed if the permit holder has sold a tobacco product to a person under the age of 21. Three times within the previous permit year and the time period to appeal has expired.
10. Violations has been amended – see regulations

Tobacco Regs Public Hearing: Dr. Green opens up the meeting to take comments from attendees. Dr. Lennox spoke briefly about putting a cap on retailers on how many permits one can have. Dr. Green Mentioned that at the last month's meeting that capping will put on hold for now and if in the future

If it needs to be revisited, the board will do so.

Dr. Green made a motion to adopt the proposed revised tobacco regulations as written. It was seconded by Ms. Machado.

A vote was taken, 3-0, All in Favor. The new tobacco regulations will be in effect February 1, 2022.

Motion Carried Unanimously

COVID19/Vaccine Updates. Mr. Kress present the city's covid dashboard slides, some of the highlights are as follows:

- a. Positive cases – 7,059 Probable cases - 514
- b. Total vaccinated – 56,783
- c. Cases by zip code, - 02144 zip code continues to rise in cases
- d. There have been 210 positive cases reported for the month of October 2021
- e. The city's covid19 dashboard can be found by going to their website at www.somervillema.gov

Mike Person who join the meeting virtually has a question for the board about children from the age of 2 through 5 Wearing masks. He is concern that keeping masks on will delay them in learning speech.

Directors' Updates: Mr. Kress said that vaccines and testing clinics are ongoing with various sites throughout the city. Go to the website at www.somervillema.gov. HHS has recently hired an epidemiologist / contact tracer to help in determining community health needs assessments and evaluation on public health deliverables.

Next meeting – Virtual

Tuesday, December 21, 2021

6:00pm

Adjournment:

On a motion made by Dr. Green, the meeting was adjourned at 7:21pm. Ms. Machado seconded it.

List of Documents:

Notice/Agenda, Tobacco Regs, Covid19 Slides

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Henkle-Teixeira
Board of Health Secretary
December 16, 2021