

Norwalk Health Department Board of Health Actions

Board of Health

March 11, 2008

5:30 PM

Library

**Public Hearing
Minutes**

Fees for Environmental Services

Mr. Callahan opened the public hearing at 5:30 PM and reviewed the proposed fee schedule.

Diane Lauricella, 304 Main Avenue, a resident and environmental consultant spoke in support of the fee schedule. Ms. Lauricella said the modest increases were merited and reasonable. Ms Lauricella suggested fees be established to cover the cost of specialized reviews of site plans for the development of difficult properties.

The hearing ended at 5:40 PM

**Monthly Meeting
Minutes**

Call to order at 5:40 PM

Present: Board of Health – Kenneth Lalime, RPH, Sheldon Miller, Theresa Quell, PhD, RN, and Edward Tracey, MD

Staff – Tim Callahan, Director of Health, Darleen Hoffler, Clinical Supervisor and Gabrielle Grode, Health Promotion Program Associate:

Approval of February 12, 2008 meeting minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Lalime, seconded by Mr. Miller and passed unanimously.

Action on Environmental Fees

A motion to approve the proposed fee schedule was made by Dr. Tracey, seconded by Ms Quell and passed unanimously.

Travel Clinic Customer Satisfaction Survey Results

Darleen Hoffler presented the results of a customer satisfaction survey of travel clinic patients. The survey was conducted from August through October 2007 and 27% (75/279) of the patients receiving the survey completed and returned the instrument in a pre stamped envelope. The survey assessed patient satisfaction with telephone contact

and the clinic visit. Overall 88% of the respondents expressed satisfaction with their telephone contact, which occurred when making the appointment. Overall 89% of the patients responding to the survey expressed satisfaction with their clinic visit. Areas in need of improvement were the length of time in the waiting room before being seen by the clinician and the neatness and cleanliness of the facility. Improvement efforts are underway. A time study of the entire process is underway from registration to waiting room to clinician to check out. To improve cleanliness the waiting room, reception area and examination rooms were painted and cleaned. Examination tables donated by the Norwalk Community Health Center are being readied for use. The survey results are being reviewed with all clinic staff.

Fodor Farm Community Garden

Gabrielle Grode presented the community garden project. The Norwalk Health Department proposal to address obesity by establishing a community garden to allow residents an opportunity to increase physical activity and improve consumption of nutritious foods was ranked number 1 of 13 applications. The Connecticut Department of Public Health awarded \$100,000 for an 18-month period. The target group is young people between the ages of 8 and 18 residing in South Norwalk. The garden is open to any Norwalk resident. Suggestions were made to zero in on schools and church groups. The New Canaan Nature Center was also identified as a resource. The garden will be located on 1.8 acres at the Fodor Farm property. Plots are 4' x 12'. The Recreation and Parks Department is working closely with the Health Department on this project. A marketing campaign is underway to recruit gardeners. Information sessions on gardening basics will be offered in the months of April and May.

Other Business

Larry Cross, Executive Director of the Norwalk Community Health Center, received a copy of the Board's letter to the public health service. Mr. Cross Asked Mr. Callahan to extend his thanks for the support of NCHC.

Alexis Cherichetti, Conservation Commission, forwarded an update on geese control activities. Egg oiling will commence in the next few weeks. Ms. Cherchetti is seeking volunteers to assist.

Ms Quell announced a toy demonstration and screening for lead. The event will take place on March 29, 2008 at the Stepping Stones Children Museum.

Adjourn at 6:28 PM