

MEETING MINUTES

October 26th, 2023 | 6:30 p.m.

Call to Order: Laurel Skinder Gourville, BOH chair, called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

Attendance: Laurel Skinder Gourville, Chair, Elaine Silva, Vice Chair, Candace Linehan, secretary

Administration Present: Cindy Luongo, Board of Health Clerk, Anthony Chui, Health Director Melrose, Stoneham and Wakefield, Melissa Lowry, PHN Melrose, Wakefield and Stoneham. Daniel Thompson, Health inspector for Wakefield

Public Engagement: Michael Tucker, Owners of Bamboo House Xue Bin and Xiu Yue Chan, Virtually: Sue Heffernan

Approval of minutes of October 18th, 2023: Silva motions, seconded by Linehan. Motion passed with corrections 3-0-0 by roll call vote.

Bamboo House hearing: Daniel Thompson the Health inspector for Wakefield spoke to BOH about the status of the Bamboo House and their food permit. Since 2022 many food safety issues and general sanitation issues are still ongoing. The inspection reports will show that all reports have repeat violations. They are a risk 3 establishment (inspected 3 times yearly) they have had 10 or 11 inspections. The most recent inspection still had significant violations therefore the Director Chui and Daniel Thompson required a consultant to work with them. The consultant reports over the last month have shown no sign of improvements and all the same repeated violations over the last year. Dan said the risk is pretty high that someone could get sick and does not feel they are fit to re-open. Gourville asked if the property is being sold. Sue Heffernan, the attorney for the potential buyer said her client was not aware of the violations and inspections over the last few months. Sue asked if she could have a copy of the reports. Silva asked when the restaurant was closed, Dan said it was at the beginning of October. The owners were under the impression that they needed to be open to sell the business. The BOH explained that this is not the case and the new owners will get their own permit to open. Xue and Xiu said they had new food workers and they didn't care and that they would watch more closely. They asked for another chance by changing everything new. The BOH said it is their responsibility to oversee their staff. Linehan said there are people in our community that if they got a foodborne illness they could die. Gourville said we need to focus on what we have seen in the past year and are we still concerned, are we confident that this won't happen again? Gourville said she is not confident. Linehan worried that if we allow them to re-open people will get sick. Silva said even with the food consultant people usually learn but violations still exist. Linehan made a motion to deny Bamboo House a food permit, seconded by Silva. Motion passed 3-0-0 by roll call vote. Silva said to have the record state that the revoked permit does not impact a potential sale.

Health Director Report: Anthony Chui gave an update on the Public Excellence Grant in Melrose. They are hiring a coordinator for the grant and interviewed two strong candidates today. The state also okayed hiring an epidemiologist for the grant. The state also gave the okay for a potential social services coordinator for the grant split between Stoneham and Winchester.

Gourville suggested a Tri-Board meeting in December.

NFG hearings are complete and since then more and more interest in the policy has been shown.

PHN Melissa Lowry gave the BOH an update on the flu clinics. Melrose and Wakefield completed. Stoneham clinics are still happening.

Wakefield will not have any Covid clinics this year. The cost for the vaccine is \$120 Pfizer and \$130 Moderna and the cost is not in our budget.

Tri-Board meeting TBA

Adjournment: Silva motioned to adjourn, seconded by Linehan 07:36 p.m. Motion passed 3-0-0 by a roll call vote. The next meeting is November 15th, 2023 6:30PM remote
Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cindy Luongo', with a stylized, cursive script.

Cindy Luongo