



City of Rochester, New Hampshire

Board of Health

MINUTES OF THE ROCHESTER BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING HELD ON March 7th 2023

The Vice-Chair Toni McLellan called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. in the City Hall Annex Isinglass Conference Room.

Roll Call:

Members Present

Jackie Fitzpatrick
Toni McLellan
Dr. Archana Bhargava

Members Excused

Thomas Moon
Jim Grant

Also present:
Councilor Ashley Desrochers
Jessica Chavez, Secretary of Building and Licensing Services
Bob Veno, Health Inspector for Building and Licensing Services

These minutes are the legal record of the meeting and are in the format of an overview of the Board of Health meeting. It is neither intended nor is it represented that this is a full transcription.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes were tabled until a future meeting, as only one member from the October 7th, 2020 meeting was present.

Review of By Laws:

Co-Chair Ms. McLellan suggested that we have more than 5 members on the board. She suggested 7 members.

Mr. Veno suggested that the BOH reach out to City Attorney Terence O'Rourke on that process. Members will review by-laws to discuss changes next meeting on membership term lengths and meeting frequency.

Ms. Chavez mentioned the city-wide policy and procedure memo that updated the agenda posting requirements and how the Board of Health By-Laws do not reflect those changes.

Ms. Fitzpatrick motioned to follow city wide procedure and update the by-laws to reflect posting in 2 places instead of 3. Dr. Bhargava seconded and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Ms. Chavez mentioned a change to the by-laws to remove ZBA By-Laws and change it to BOH By-Laws.

Dr. Bhargava made a motion to update the By-laws to remove ZBA language, Ms. Fitzpatrick seconded and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

New:

Ms. McLellan started the conversation on dangers of working/living with lead paint.

Ms. McLellan ask Mr. Veno to share the facts on lead paint.

Mr. Veno presented the following research:

- Rochester housing stock is one of the highest risk cities in the state for containing lead.
- Effects children from birth-6 years old.
- Only takes a fingertip amount of lead paint to cause permeant damage to a child's development.
- Testing has dropped 25% since 2019 due to pandemic.

Ms. Desrochers stated her background in public health and shared her excitement in starting the conversation on lead paint and the dangers associated with it.

There was back and forth conversation about the ways the board can help establish city regulations for lead paint. Ms. McLellan made some suggestions like adding a lead section to building permits, creating a list of certified lead removal contractors, and draft a city-wide lead ordinance.

Dr. Bhargava mentioned the lack of child testing over the years. A conversation on testing and current requirements for schools and doctors' offices. Ms. McLellan mentioned a new House Bill HB-342 which would require lead blood test for all children at the time of first entry into school.

Ms. McLellan led a discussion about how other towns and states are addressing lead poisoning. She mentioned Portsmouth, NH is drafting an ordinance for multi-family rental units to receive an inspection every 3 years. Dr. Bhargava shared that she doesn't believe every 3 years is enough.

Ms. Bhargava suggested to bring a lead presentation to school board and city council members. Which started a discussion on ways to get more information to families, teachers, contractors, and the community on lead paint.

Councilor Desrochers left meeting at 5:54pm.

Ms. McLellan suggested a draft response be created for the City Managers request.

Dr. Bhargava and Ms. Fitzpatrick agreed.

Ms. McLellan will draft a response about adding lead paint certificate to building permits and drafting an ordinance.

Dr. Bhargava and Ms. Fitzpatrick will draft a response for educating city official, teachers, contractors and the community.

Ms. Chavez will assist in compiling the letter.

Next meeting is Thursday, March 23rd at 5:30pm. Location to be determined.

Adjournment:

Ms. McLellan motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:38pm, Ms. Fitzpatrick seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Chavez

Jessica Chavez
Secretary for Building and Licensing Services