

Regular Meeting
Milford Board of Health
August 8, 2023

Members Present: Chairman Kenneth Evans, Members Paul Mazzuchelli and Leonard Izzo.
Others present: Daniel Syriala, Director of Public Health, Lisa Tamagni, Assistant Director, John Fernandez, Health Inspector and Joan Clarico, Health Inspector and Minutes Clerk.
Halstead Green Facilities Supervisor, Timothy Burgess, Property Manager, Fauzia Bokhari, Regional Property Manager, Mandi Mascola, and six Residents of which four spoke, Jessica Matute, Ritajayne Rivera, Espedito Rivera and Leticia Freitas.

At 4:30 pm Member Paul Mazzuchelli called the meeting to order.

Approve Minutes from July 11, 2023

Paul Mazzuchelli made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Kenneth Evans, they were approved unanimously.

Halstead Green Trash Compactor

Last year management at Halstead Green swapped out the dumpsters for a trash compactor. Over a year since the dumpsters were removed the compactor can't keep up. Property Manager, Timothy Burgess last year said the compactor is monitored 4 times a day on weekdays and continuously on weekends. He also said he was working on getting cameras installed. Mr. Burgess said the reason for switching this out last year was because of the infestation of rodents. Board Member Paul Mazzuchelli said whether you have a problem with rodents or not you have a condition that's conducive to rodents. So, if you don't have rodents today, you're going to have them tomorrow. Paul said it's not working; it's been over a year now and it's not working, that was on July 12, 2022, and to this date nothing has been done. Director Daniel Syriala recommended that if they want to keep the compactor, they must provide additional dumpsters throughout the facility. Mr. Burgess said he would look into battery operated cameras to monitor the problem. He said he is putting a plan together, but until the plan is approved, he and his team will be monitoring and keeping the area clean.

Director Daniel Syriala said over the last two months the Board of Health office has had numerous complaints about the trash compactor and the complex itself. Dan said we are getting at least 3-4 complaints each week. He said the biggest thing here is we are not getting any compliance from the complex based on the complaints we have investigated. Paul Mazzuchelli asked if these complaints could impair the health and safety of the residents. He said we have to fulfill our responsibility to protect the health and well-being and the quality of life of our residents. That is what we are here for. When it rains there is water running into many different units. Health inspector John Fernandez showed videos he took during inspections of water raining into the apartments then being funneled by plastic into barrels. He also showed pictures of mold growing in the units. Timothy Burgess said he would try to expedite the approval process through the owners and get the contractor out there by the beginning of next week.

Many residents of the complex were there to have their voices heard.

The Board members requested a written plan for the resolve of all the complaints by Monday, August 14, 2023.

Magaly Mini Market

Health inspector Joan Clarico received a visit from James Vigone and Adam Salmon of the Milford Fire Department on 7/18/2023 to inform the Health Department that the market at 82 Main Street, Magaly Mini Market, was infested with fruit flies. After an inspection the store was ordered to close until an exterminator could be hired and any health risk was eliminated. The owner was asked to contact the Board of Health when the work was completed so another inspection would allow them to re-open if passed. The Board of health then received a call from the Fire Department that the store was open on Thursday, 7/20/2023 without approval from the Health Department. On Friday, Inspectors Joan Clarico and John Fernandez went to the store to put a cease-and-desist sticker on the door. The Police department was informed of the situation and was asked to monitor when they are in the area. Inspector Joan Clarico was called by Officer Sanchioni because the store was open on Saturday 7/22/2023. The officer closed the store, and the store owner was asked to remain closed until she could attend our next Board Meeting. Joan Clarico asked the Board to keep the cease-and-desist order until food safety training could be achieved. Paul Mazzuchelli asked the interpreter to explain to the owner when you serve or sell food to the public there is a big responsibility. Leonard Izzo made a motion to suspend the Retail Food Permit until Food Safety Training could be completed, Paul Mazzuchelli seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

Vaccines for Children

Due to recent events regarding the breakdown of the vaccine refrigerator the Board of Health has had to evaluate whether we will be able to sustain the Vaccines for Children Program established under the former director. In its inception, the program was meant to be an emergency fallback for children who were not able to get appointments at surrounding free clinics in a timely manner to attend school. Since that time the program has grown to be the primary means for children that are uninsured or on Mass Health to receive their required vaccines. Assistant Director Lisa Tamagni said The Board of Health was able to start this program due to the funds provided in the American Rescue Plan Act. As these funds dwindle and the ability to use them is set to expire in 2024 the ability to fund this program is not provided for in the Board of Health's Budget. The mechanical issues with the vaccine refrigerator have provided us a perfect example of this as the replacement costs are over a thousand dollars and finding technicians to service the unit has proved challenging and very costly. Chairman Kenneth Evans made a motion to discontinue the Vaccines for Children Program through the Board of Health, Paul Mazzuchelli seconded, and it was unanimous.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:38pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Joan Clarico, minute clerk.