

**Board of Health  
Tuesday, January 7, 2014  
Penn Room**

**Members Attending:** B. Hospidor, J. Seidel, J. Wong, K. Schorn  
**Others Attending:** S. Katzenmoyer, J. Meinhart, J. Lima

Dr. Wong called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

A quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes**

**The December 3, 2013 minutes were approved by consensus of the Board.**

**Health Officer Report**

Ms. Lima distributed the monthly report.

Dr. Wong questioned the meaning of work order. Ms. Lima explained that it is when the City must complete maintenance tasks for property owners (mowing, shoveling, securing, trash removal). She stated that the City bills the property owner for completing these tasks.

Dr. Wong questioned if 22 was a high amount. Ms. Lima stated that she was unsure but that they are only performed for hazardous situations.

Dr. Wong questioned if the tattoo regulations have gone into effect. Ms. Lima stated that seven establishments have registered and will be inspected by the end of February. She stated that all establishments have received a letter with the registration form and explanation of the process.

Dr. Wong questioned if handicapped parking was ever denied. Ms. Lima stated that it was not in the past but that some have been denied since the new Health Officer has begun processing them.

Ms. Schorn questioned compliance on restaurant inspections. Ms. Lima stated that restaurants know when the City will be performing its routine inspections but not when they are inspected because of complaints.

**Animal Control Legislation**

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that Mr. Coleman was unable to attend the meeting this evening. She stated that he reviewed his research with her so that the Board would receive a report.

Mr. Coleman has been in contact with the four local municipalities which have a pet limit (6 cats/dogs) – Wyomissing, Lower Alsace, Exeter Township, Kenhorst. The limit in these municipalities is not used as a pre-emptive measure but a tool during enforcement based on a complaint. He stated that no registration of pets above six is required and that all municipalities base the investigation of complaints on items found in their Property Maintenance Code (noise, odor, care, etc).

Dr. Wong questioned kennel, breeding, and vicious animal regulations. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that these items are covered by State regulations.

Mr. Minehart stated that the status quo is not working for the Animal Rescue League during enforcement of complaints.

Mr. Hospidor questioned why complaints took so much time to enforce. Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that the length of time needed is because of due process issues which cannot be taken from citizens. She explained that the judicial process is slow and that appeals add additional time.

Ms. Schorn questioned the number of pets allowed under the kennel regulations. Mr. Minehart stated that the number is 24 animals within one calendar year.

Mr. Minehart questioned the position of the current Council. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she and Mr. Coleman have spoken with three Councilors who have voiced their support of the pet limit. She explained that the limit would be for cats and dogs only and does not address pets in aquariums.

Dr. Wong questioned if the number six was realistic. Mr. Minehart stated that this is a fair number.

Ms. Katzenmoyer suggested that the Board present the limit to Council in a committee setting to garner their support and explain the Board's position. She stated that this worked very well with the tattoo regulations.

Ms. Katzenmoyer suggested that the Property Maintenance Code (PMC) be reviewed to see if any amendments are needed to further assist with enforcement of animal issues. Ms. Lima stated that she will review the PMC.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that the Humane Society should also become part of the conversation. Dr. Wong instructed Ms. Katzenmoyer to invite the executive director to the February meeting.

The Board would like to see legislation at its next meeting amending the Animal Chapter of the Code of Ordinances setting a dog/cat limit of six.

## **2014 Goals**

Dr. Wong asked members to consider goals and projects for the Board in 2014.

Mr. Hospidor noted his hope that more people ride bikes.

Dr. Wong noted his hope that more people walk which would increase fitness and safety. Ms. Lima stated that a report issued recently has placed Reading #9 in the top ten overweight cities.

Ms. Schorn noted that schools are reducing recess and gym classes.

Dr. Wong noted the great cardiology facilities in Reading. He stated that they will be put to good use if Reading is among the top overweight cities.

Mr. Hospidor noted that Europeans walk more but that the cities are much more urban and it is easier. He noted the need for a change in attitude for residents to walk.

Dr. Wong noted that walking will also make neighborhoods safer. People will know their neighbors and their neighborhood better. He noted that there is a social fear associated with the outdoors.

Mr. Hospidor stated that neighborhoods do not have destinations for people to walk to. He stated that Americans do not walk routinely.

Dr. Wong stated that most places in Berks County need to be driven to.

Mr. Hospidor suggested walkability studies. He also noted the need for additional neighborhood clean-ups.

Dr. Wong questioned if there has been an increase in ambulance membership since the Board worked on this project. He suggested that another insert be placed in the water bills. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that the Board no longer has a budget for the insert. She stated that she will follow up with the Fire Chief.

Ms. Schorn stated that ambulance membership was recently advertised in the Reading Eagle and two articles in the Council newsletter.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Board of Health will be Tuesday, February 4 at 4 pm in the Penn Room.

Ms. Schorn stated that she will be unable to attend the February meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:47 pm.

*Respectfully submitted  
Shelly Katzenmoyer  
Deputy City Clerk*