

**MEETING NOTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE PEABODY BOARD OF HEALTH  
January 25, 2024 @ 4:30 p.m.**

**In Attendance:** Chairperson Thomas J. Durkin III; Members Anthony Carli and Julia Fleet D.O. (via Zoom); Health Department Director Sharon Cameron; and Clerk Lisa Greene.

The meeting was held in the City Hall Lower- Level Conference Room at 4:30 p.m.

with public access also available remotely Via Zoom

At 4:31 Mr. Durkin opened the General Meeting, read the hearing notice and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**HEARINGS**

**Subject: Hearing re: Application to Perform Body Tattooing (apprentice only) at Intricate Ink Tattoo submitted by Monique Law. Vote anticipated to grant or deny permit.**

**Discussion:** Mr. Durkin read the hearing notice and opened the hearing. Ms. Law was in attendance and explained that she has been an artist her whole life and has a Bachelor of Arts and became an apprentice last year. She said she has been learning all the safety procedures. Mr. Durkin asked if the Board had any questions so far. None were put forth. Ms. Cameron said all of Ms. Law's paperwork is in order. She asked Ms. Law to tell how she will make sure that things remain sterile and to make sure that she does not cross contaminate. Ms. Law replied that she will always wash her hands, wear gloves, wrap the tattoo equipment, bed, and the area around where she is tattooing. She said she uses disposable needles, disposes of them in a sharps container, cleans surfaces with madacide to sanitize. Ms. Cameron asked what issues would be present that would cause her to determine that she should not administer a tattoo on someone. Ms. Law replied she would not tattoo anyone who has any health problems that affect the skin or blood. Ms. Cameron asked Ms. Law to describe what types of things she will be doing as an apprentice. Ms. Law replied that when she is ready she will be doing some free tattoos, and said that her mentor will be overseeing any work she does for the first year. Mr. Durkin asked if Ms. Law is also applying to be a piercer. Ms. Law replied no, she is just applying for a permit for tattooing. Mr. Durkin asked if any members of the Board had any questions. None were put forth. Mr. Durkin asked if anyone present or on zoom wished to speak on this matter. No responses were received. Mr. Durkin said that he knows that art is an intrinsic part of the tattoo process, but said to remember that the Board of Health focuses on the health part of the field. Ms. Law replied that she understood. Mr. Durkin closed the hearing at 4:35 and asked the Board how they would like to proceed.

Mr. Carli made motion to approve Ms. Law's application to Perform Body Tattooing (apprentice only) at Intricate Ink Tattoo. Dr. Fleet seconded the motion. A vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed to approve the permit.

**Subject: Hearing re: Application to Perform Body Tattooing (apprentice only) at Timeless Ink submitted by Byron Lemus. Vote anticipated to grant or deny permit.**

**Discussion:** Mr. Durkin read the hearing notice and opened the hearing. Mr. Lemus was in attendance and stated that he had started working in tattoo shops at age 21, adding that he had turned 24 a week ago. He said he had started his apprenticeship 8 months ago. Ms. Cameron asked what he had been doing. Mr. Lemus replied that he does administrative work, phone work, cleaning, and answering questions and does not work on clients. Ms. Cameron asked Mr. Lemus to talk about procedures he will use to prevent cross contamination. He replied that he always wears gloves, always uses madacide, breaks down everything, does what he learned in the classes. Ms. Cameron asked when does one need to change gloves. He replied before and after procedures, he wraps things in saran wrap, including his bottles and everything. Ms. Cameron asked how he would avoid contaminating inks. Mr. Lemus replied that he would rinse the cup with either alcohol or green soap. Ms. Cameron asked, if he was in the middle of working on a client and needed more ink, what would he do. He replied that he would change gloves, change everything out, and breakdown his set up if he needs to. Ms. Cameron asked what type of supervision he will have. He replied that when he is working on clients everyone in the shop will be watching everything he does. Ms. Cameron asked what sort of activities an apprentice may do without supervision. Mr. Lemus replied saying they could do things like answering phone calls, cleaning up, answering questions. Ms. Cameron asked when a tattoo artist should decline to perform a tattoo. Mr. Lemus replied that he would refuse if he learned that the client had a disease like HIV, or if he saw evidence of a skin disease. Ms. Cameron asked if he asks about diseases. Mr. Lemus replied yes and said that they ask those questions on intake. Ms. Cameron said that the inspector identified a dog at the shop, and she asked if it belonged to him. He replied no and said it likely belonged to a client. Ms. Cameron asked if he knows if animals are allowed in a shop. Mr. Lemus replied that it is not the best idea. Ms. Cameron replied that it is not allowed by regulation, other than a service animal. She asked if a client showed up with an animal for an appointment how would he address that. Mr. Lemus replied that he would tell them to leave it outside. Ms. Cameron said she had no further questions. Mr. Durkin asked in there were any questions from the Board. None were put forth. He asked if anyone participating anyone in audience on the Zoom call wished to speak on this matter and no responses were received. Mr. Durkin closed the hearing at 4:45 and asked how the Board would like to proceed.

Mr. Carli made a motion to approve permit to Perform Body Tattooing (apprentice only) at Timeless Ink submitted by Byron Lemus. Dr. Fleet seconded the motion. No discussion. A vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed to grant the permit.

**Subject: Hearing re: Application to Perform Body Tattooing (micropigmentation only) and to be an apprentice for regular tattooing at Lake St. Tattoo submitted by Stephanie Ward. Vote anticipated to grant or deny permit.**

**Discussion:** Mr. Durkin read the hearing notice and opened the hearing. Ms. Ward was present via Zoom and explained that she had been a medical assistant for 11 years, and then switched to doing permanent cosmetics. She had gone to school in 2020, then took an additional course in 2021 and completed her apprenticeship, and in July 2023 she opened up a body art establishment in Reading. Ms. Cameron asked about the procedures Ms. Ward uses to prevent cross contamination of tools and equipment. Ms. Ward replied that everything she uses is disposable except the tattooing machine, cleans with cavicide, uses disposable bedsheets, saran wrap, disposable bibs, and all disposable items on tray, washes hands, and puts on gloves. Ms. Cameron asked what type of medical conditions a client would have that would make her decline a client. Ms. Ward replied that anyone who has open sores on the area to be worked on and said she would send them to their primary care provider because she can't do it. She added that if they have keloids an artist also can't do it, and anything with the heart, anyone with a pacemaker, or anyone who was on chemo in the last 12 months for their safety. Ms. Cameron asked if Ms. Ward anticipates working in two studios. Ms. Ward replied yes. Ms. Cameron asked if Ms. Ward will have other artists working with her in Peabody. Ms. Ward replied no and said it would be just her. She said she was offered a tattoo apprenticeship in Peabody but her business will stay in Reading. Ms. Cameron asked if Ms. Ward had ever had any disciplinary action against her permit in any other jurisdiction. Ms. Ward replied no and said she had her second inspection yesterday and had no violations. Mr. Durkin asked if there were any questions from any Board members. None were put forth. Mr. Durkin asked if anyone present or on the zoom call had any questions. None were put forth. Ms. Cameron reported that the Public Health Nurse had reviewed the medical records, and noted that Ms. Ward should receive her second and third doses of the Hepatitis B vaccine when it is the appropriate time. Ms. Ward said she will be sure to and said she appreciates this and is excited to take the next step. Mr. Durkin closed the hearing at 4:45.

Mr. Carli made a motion to approve both the permit submitted by Stephanie Ward to perform body tattooing (micropigmentation only) and the permit to be an apprentice for regular tattooing at Lake St. Tattoo. Dr. Fleet seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and it was unanimously agreed to grant the permits.

**Subject: (Scheduled for 4:45 pm) – Hearing re: Application for variance from Federal Food Code 3-502.11 for Satanic Hot Sauce submitted by Jordan Aguirre. Vote anticipated to grant or deny variance.**

**Discussion:** Mr. Durkin opened the hearing at 4:45 and read the hearing notice. He noted that Mr. Aguirre was present via Zoom. Mr. Durkin asked Mr. Aguirre to tell the Board a little about his plans and the reason for the permit. Mr. Aguirre explained that his was the first hot sauce made in Salem, and that he makes hot sauces for heavy metal bands throughout the world and is featured at marketplaces throughout New England. Mr. Durkin asked Mr. Yale to speak on this application. Mr. Yale explained that after he received the application from Mr. Aguirre to use the shared kitchen at Citizen's Inn they had some conversations about what the product is that

he will be preparing. He added that he learned that Mr. Aguirre is looking to use vinegar as a preservative, using a low pH as a control method, and the food code says that situation requires a variance. He said that is why he asked Mr. Aguirre to submit a HACCP plan and to submit a variance request. Mr. Durkin asked if the default plan for preserving food products is temperature and additives. Mr. Yale replied yes. Mr. Durkin asked if the low pH approach has been done before. Mr. Yale replied yes and said he is confident that Mr. Aguirre's approach is a safe approach. Mr. Yale said he had also asked Mr. Aguirre about record keeping and said Mr. Aguirre provided a lab sample of his product with pH tests. Mr. Yale said he also asked him about when would you test during your process. Mr. Aguirre showed a 6.5 gallon container and explained that the process involves fermentation, and they must not allow air to enter the container during the fermentation process. He said he tests right before he is ready to bottle and added that the pH has to be under 4.0, and said his is typically at 3.23, and said if it is higher, then he must dump the entire batch and start over. Mr. Yale agreed that it is correct to take the pH at the time of bottling. Mr. Aguirre said that when he stores the sauce to ferment it the temperature is no hotter than 65 degrees and with no sunlight. Ms. Cameron asked if the product remains at Citizen's Inn while fermenting. Mr. Aguirre replied no. As a social worker he brings clients to Citizens Inn to access the food pantry and other programs and learned about the opportunity to prepare his sauces there. He said he then brings the product home to ferment in an empty clean closet at his house, as he likes to keep control of the product during the entire fermentation process. He said he only uses the closet for this process, and he brings the product to and from Citizen's Inn himself. Ms. Cameron asked where he bottles the product and he replied that he bottles it at Citizens Inn. Mr. Yale asked Mr. Aguirre to write into his written procedures that he will do a pH test right before he bottles it. Mr. Aguirre said he would. Ms. Cameron said she didn't see anything on the label about shelf life and asked if he had done any testing. Mr. Aguirre replied no and said some say the sauces last 2 years, some say 3 years, but he says 1 year once opened and to keep it refrigerated as he would rather people use it right away. Ms. Cameron asked Mr. Yale if he thought they should have him add that to the label. Mr. Aguirre said he is also adding expiration labels as well. Mr. Yale said he wants to meet Mr. Aguirre at Citizens so he can walk him through the procedure. Mr. Aguirre said yes and asked if he wanted to see him make it or just have him walk through it. Mr. Yale said he would like to see the procedure. Mr. Aguirre said that would work as he has a hot sauce to do for a band at the beginning of next month. He added that the sauce contains the Carolina Reaper pepper and to bring a face mask. Ms. Cameron asked if he needs to schedule kitchen time when no other people are there. Mr. Aguirre replied that that was a good question and said he did at the Salem kitchen he used when he started. He said a lot of people cook the peppers but he doesn't cook the peppers since he likes the fresh flavor, so it doesn't expand beyond the blender, only when cleaning equipment it can cause respiratory sensitivity, but still he usually likes to do it when no one is in the kitchen. Mr. Durkin asked if there were any further questions from the board. None were put forth. Mr. Durkin asked if there was anyone on the Zoom call who wished to speak. No responses were received. Mr. Aguirre said it's nice to see a board of health that is taking things seriously. Mr. Carli asked how the marketing

works. Mr. Aguirre replied that on the label will be band name like Pagan Reaper, and then his company name is also on it. At 5:04 Mr. Durkin closed the hearing.

Mr. Carli made motion to approve the variance for Mr. Aguirre to use vinegar as a preservative in his hot sauce production. Dr. Fleet seconded the motion. A vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed to approve the variance.

## **BUSINESS**

### **1. Subject: Approval of minutes of December 14, 2023- Vote anticipated to approve or amend minutes.**

**Discussion:** Mr. Durkin asked if there were any edits to the minutes from December. None were put forth. Mr. Carli made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Dr. Fleet seconded the motion. A vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed to accept the minutes.

### **2.a) Environmental updates- Rousselot**

**Discussion:** Ms. Cameron reported that there were no odor complaints in the last month, and that the SESD is putting parameters on Rousselot. She replied that the responses they got were minimal, and that they are going to continue to flow process waste into waste system, which we knew, as it takes a while to wind down the business.

### **2.b) Environmental updates- Rodent control**

**Discussion:** Ms. Cameron said the new rodent control project is going well, and the combination of the A1 sentinel traps, regular bait stations and birth control stations seems to be working. She said that they continue to get lots of rodent complaints, and said that there are issues with trash pickup, so it is a work in progress. She added that the highest total number of rodents identified were at school dumpster areas. Mr. Durkin said Republic was not coming for scheduled pickups. He added that the Mayor had announced a new agreement with them.

### **2.c) Environmental updates- Tier Classification Submittal/Phase I report at 289 Lynn St.**

**Discussion:** Ms. Cameron reported that this item is about possible contamination of the soil in the lake adjacent to Larsons auto shop on Browns Pond. Ms. Cameron said this is a concern due to the potential impact on drinking water from Browns Pond. She shared the report with the water treatment plant operators and asked them if the plan is sufficiently protective of our water supply. She said that Director of Public Services asked that the contractor do sampling for hydrocarbons, some VOCs and lead. She asked the Board to formally authorize this request so we can formally ask it of the site owner and LSP. All Board members agreed to support this request. Ms. Cameron asked if Mr. Durkin would sign the letter to the owner as she is a customer of this establishment so wants to avoid conflict of interest. Mr. Durkin agreed and signed the letter.

**3. a.) Code enforcement updates- Housing: 210 Washington St; 90 Central St; 17 Shamrock St; 200 Jubilee Dr; 59 Walnut St.**

**Discussion:** Reviewed. Mr. Durkin said he has noticed a lot of mattresses listed in the violations. Ms. Cameron said that mattress are the bane of their existence. Mr. Carli said the state law prohibiting disposing of mattresses in the regular trash stream was not a very well thought out plan. Ms. Cameron added that with mattresses residents have to buy a sticker and bring the mattress to Public Services and people don't understand that, because other stickered items are eligible for curbside pickup. Ms. Cameron reported that Junk Haul on Farm Ave., which has been operating much like a transfer station, is leaving town next month and only empty trailers are left. She said she told the property owners to check with us before new customers take over because we will have to put them through the process of permitting as a transfer station if they are going to have a similar business.

**3. b.) Nuisances: 3 Abington Ave.; 25 Farm Ave; 12 Foster St; 15 Margin St; 10 Summer St; 37 Bowditch St; 16 Littles Lane; 101 Lynn St; 246 Newbury St; 54 Goodale St.**

**Discussion:** Reviewed.

**3. c.) Food: 272 Lynn St.**

**Discussion:** Reviewed

**4. a.) Permitting updates- List of permits issued in December 2023**

**Discussion:** Reviewed

**4. b.) Non-renewal of permits**

**Discussion:** Reviewed

**5. a) Public Health Nursing updates- December 2023 surveillance report**

**Discussion:** Ms. Cameron said they are seeing a lot of Covid, a lot of Flu, and some RSV. She added that a lot of health care institutions are reinstating masking.

**6. a.) School Health updates- December 2023 district report**

**Discussion:** Ms. Cameron explained that they don't have a document this month. She said they are working with the school department to update their medical emergency response plans to make sure we are on the same page about protocols.

**7. a.) Social service updates**

**Discussion:** Ms. Cameron reported that their new clinician starts work on Monday and said she comes from Elliot Human Services, which holds the state contract for Community Behavioral Health Center in this region, and has experience responding to scenes with police. She said the second person has been hired for the Care Navigator position but is on maternity leave. She was

formerly a Peabody police officer so is already connected with local resources, so it is nice to bridge the departments.

Ms. Cameron reminded the Board that they voted to authorize the syringe service program. A detective from the police department who handles the opioid response team had some questions about exchange ratios, etc., so they delayed letting the state know that they were going to pursue this. She said they had the van visit again earlier this week and Healthy Streets staff satisfactorily addressed his concerns, so that later this week she will send that letter to the state advising them of the Board's authorization of the program. She said the state said they don't have to issue a new contract to Peabody and can just amend their existing contract to add Peabody to the contract they have in place for Lynn and Salem so they don't have to go through a lengthy procurement process. She said she had been speaking with Mary Weeler, director of Healthy Streets, and she said they usually don't do a press release about starting in a new community. She said word gets around, and that they will make visits to places where they know there are people who need services. Mr. Durkin noted that there is a need to balance the need for openness and for discretion.

**8. a.) Correspondence: From Tighe & Bond re: Peabody Whole Site Landfill**

**Discussion:** Reviewed

**8. b.) Correspondence: From Brown & Caldwell re: Peabody Ash Monofill**

**Discussion:** Reviewed

**8. c.) Correspondence: From Covanta re: Peabody Ash Monofill**

**Discussion:** Reviewed

Mr. Carli made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:23 p.m. Dr. Fleet seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

**Next meeting date:** February 22, 2024

**Adjournment:** 5:23 p.m.