

**MEETING NOTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE PEABODY BOARD OF HEALTH  
October 19, 2023 4:30 pm**

In Attendance: Chairperson Thomas J. Durkin III; Member Anthony Carli; Member Julia Fleet, D.O. (via Zoom); Health Department Director Sharon Cameron.

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. He explained that the first matters before the Board today were some hearings.

**HEARINGS**

**Subject:** (Scheduled for 4:30 pm)- Hearing regarding Application for Permit to Perform Body Tattooing submitted by Amanda LaRose (apprentice only; micropigmentation only).

**Discussion:** Mr. Durkin opened the hearing and read the hearing notice at 4:31 pm. Ms. LaRose was present via Zoom. Mr. Durkin welcomed her and asked her to tell the Board a little about herself and why she is applying for this permit today. She explained that she is applying for an apprenticeship for micropigmentation with Prettyology Academy; she signed up for their 100 hour apprenticeship program; she has already taken their fundamentals training course, so she is applying to continue with her education. Ms. Cameron asked for her to tell some of the ways micropigmentation artists might prevent cross contamination in the studio. Ms. LaRose replied that there are lots of ways, including having an independent room for micropigmentation only, with a hand sink. Non-disposable equipment is protected with protective film and paper film, trays are protected with film to prevent cross contamination by touch; she also wears a mask and eye protection. They have a sharps container where they dispose of cartridges or razors after procedures. All tools are covered with sterile sleeves and wrapped tightly against air or fluids contaminating it. She said they wash hands as soon as clients come in, and she also uses a hand sanitizer. She said she will then be putting on sterile neoprene gloves. Ms. Cameron asked what her understanding is of what activities she can do as an apprentice, if there are any limitations. Ms. LaRose replied that her training allowed her to learn all of the fundamentals for face micropigmentation, so her focus during apprenticeship will be on face only. She will be booking in her model clients and treating them as one would any other client, but under the direct supervision of the instructor at Prettyology to ensure she is doing the proper procedures.

Mr. Durkin asked if all of the paperwork was in order. Ms. Cameron confirmed that it was. Mr. Durkin asked if the board had any further questions. None were put forth. He reminded that this is a public hearing and that anyone can speak on the matter, and invited those present to speak and those on Zoom to use the raise hand feature to speak. No responses were put forth.

Mr. Carli made a **motion** to approve the permit for Amanda LaRose to Perform Body Tattooing- micropigmentation only, apprentice only. Dr. Fleet seconded the motion. A vote was held and it was unanimously agreed to grant the permit and the permit was granted.

**Subject:** (Scheduled for 4:30 pm): Hearing regarding Application for Permit to Perform Body Tattooing submitted by Jada Murga-Bernier. Votes anticipated to grant or deny permit.

**Discussion:** Mr. Durkin opened the hearing and read the hearing notice at 4:40 and asked if Ms. Murga-Bernier was present. She replied that she was and stepped forward. Mr. Durkin welcomed her and asked her to tell the

Board a little about herself and why she is applying for this permit today. She explained that she is applying to become a tattoo artist in Peabody. She said she had started her apprenticeship in Lynn about a year ago under Jeffrey Brito at Hood Ink. She said she had always taken an interest in art and science in school, and said she had previously taken the anatomy and physiology courses and blood born pathogen courses in high school and it is cool to see how art and science are intertwined in tattooing. Mr. Durkin asked if any Board members had any questions at this point. No responses were put forth. Ms. Cameron asked Ms. Murga-Bernier to tell about the procedures she follows to prevent cross contamination in the studio. Ms. Murga-Bernier explained that before starting a procedure she makes sure the client's skin is in good condition, for instance no acne, rashes or open wounds at the site. She would already have her tattoo station set up and ready, would wash hands and put on gloves, then preps client's skin by washing, sanitizing and shaving if necessary. After shaving she takes off gloves and allows the skin to dry. Once skin is dry she will apply the stencil and wash and set up her station with a new set of gloves and all needed materials, extra set of gloves, wraps machine in plastic wrap, for grip uses a water proof wrap, and after every client changes all of that out. Everything that touches the skin is single use. After tattoo is finished, removes gloves and puts on a new set of gloves to clean up materials. Once materials are wrapped and disposed, she sprays station with madacide and cleans up again for next person. Ms. Cameron asked about inks. Ms. Murga-Bernier replied that she wraps ink bottles before pouring, pours ink into single use plastic caps and disposes unused ink in caps after use. Ms. Cameron asked about aftercare, and if she had ever had someone come back with an infection or a problem after a tattoo. Ms. Murga-Bernier replied that she had not, but once had a client who got sunburn after a tattoo, even though she warns them not to. She said that person was fine but tattoo took a couple of weeks longer to heal. She said she recommends an ointment that they sell at the shop but if they don't choose to she will tell them to use aquifer but not to use too much.

Mr. Durkin asked if the board had any further questions. None were put forth. He reminded that this is a public hearing and that anyone can speak on the matter, and invited those present to speak and those on Zoom to use the raise hand feature to speak. No responses were put forth. Mr. Durkin asked if the board members had any other questions. None were put forth. Ms. Cameron added that she had asked Ms. Murga-Bernier to have the person she had apprenticed under write a statement confirming that her apprenticeship hours were completed under his supervision.

Mr. Carli made a **motion** to approve the permit for Jada Murga-Bernier to Perform Body Tattooing. Dr. Fleet seconded the motion. A vote was held and it was unanimously agreed to grant the permit and the permit was granted.

**Subject:** (Scheduled for 4:45 pm) - Hearing re: Application for Permit to Keep Certain Animals at 2 Tremont St. Vote anticipated to grant or deny permit.

**Discussion:** Mr. Durkin opened the hearing and read the hearing notice. He asked if applicant Judite Biscaia was present. Ms. Biscaia was in attendance. Mr. Durkin asked her to tell a little about why she is asking for the permit. Ms. Biscaia said she and her husband have a camp in Maine where her husband spends most of his time, and he decided to buy chicks to raise, but he became sick and Ms. Biscaia had to bring all the animals down to their Peabody house. At first she thought it would only be a couple of weeks, but he needed to have surgery and it has been six months now, and she learned that she needs a permit to keep the chickens here until they go back home to Maine. Mr. Durkin asked if any Board members have any questions for Ms. Biscaia. None were put forth. Inspector John Yale explained that he had learned about the chickens on the site while inspecting for another chicken permit nearby. He said that there are more than six birds there but he is giving her some time to reduce the number as the permit will be only for six due to the size of the lot. He added that the neighbor has given their approval to have the coop right on the property line; usually they require a five- foot set back but that is not the case here but since the neighbor has agreed that it is ok they are allowing it. Ms. Biscaia said she does her best to keep it very clean, uses Clorox in water and cleans every day, changes the hay once per week so there is no smell at all to not bother anybody. Mr. Durkin said they have a big concern about rodents, mice and rats. Ms. Biscaia replied that they do have rats but had them well before the chickens because there are

dumpsters and a hill nearby. She said that Peabody is known for having them anyway, and she has an exterminator and has monthly pest control visits to keep on top of that.

Mr. Durkin asked if the Board had any questions. No responses were put forth. Mr. Durkin then asked if anyone present or on Zoom wishes to speak on the matter, and said those on Zoom can use the raise hand feature. No responses were received.

Mr. Carli made a **motion** to approve the permit to keep six chickens at 2 Tremont Street, including a variance allowing for the reduced set-back from the property line. Dr. Fleet seconded the motion. A vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed to approve the permit and variance as to the set back.

**Subject:** (Scheduled for 5:05 pm) – Hearing re: Order to Connect to Municipal Sewer System at 176 Newbury Street, Peabody. Vote anticipated whether to extend stay of enforcement action.

**Discussion:** Mr. Durkin opened the hearing and read the hearing notice and explained that the Board is considering whether or not to continue the stay of the Order requiring connection to the sewer system. Owner Jennifer DeFeo was in attendance. She explained that they are in the process of working with everyone still to relocate them. They are down to ten residents, six of whom are on septic and four on sewer. One gentleman on septic is leaving next week. She is working with two other couples there who there who are on septic who have some health issues and it may take up to a year, hopefully less, to get them relocated. She said they are asking for another six month stay. They are diligently working on relocation, continue to monitor the septic systems and leaching fields every month, submit reports to Ms. Cameron each month, and haven't had any issues or complaints. Mr. Durkin asked if there had been any backups, overflows. She replied no, never had an overflow, and have had no tenant complaints and no tank issues. Mr. Carli asked if the goal is to relocate the tenants before the development goes forward. The representative said there will be three units that are on septic that will be vacant in a fairly short period. For the remainder that are working with them, some have an attorney, and there is one elderly gentleman who they are working with who is in his late 90's, lives with his son, so he is welcome to stay to the end. She said that they did get approval for two of the low -income units to be for residents, and there are two who are qualified. Ms. Cameron asked for a list of the units that are still occupied, and which are on septic. DeFeo agreed and said she will have that to her the following day. Ms. Cameron recommended keeping up with the monthly reporting and observations with pump outs as needed and revisit again in 6 months. Mr. Durkin asked if anyone present or on Zoom wished to comment on this matter. No responses were received. He closed the hearing and Mr. Carli made a motion to extend the stay for an additional six months. Dr. Fleet seconded the motion. A vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed to continue the stay for six months with the monthly reporting to continue.

**Subject:** (Scheduled for 5:15 pm) – Hearing re: Notice of Inspection and Order to Correct issued to Peterbuilt LLC re: 148 Washington St. Unit B. Vote anticipated to uphold, modify, suspend or revoke the Order and/or any associated penalties.

**Discussion:** Mr. Durkin attempted to open the hearing and read the hearing notice at 5:18 but no one was in attendance for this hearing so it was deferred until later in the meeting. He returned after business was reviewed and opened the hearing at 5:24. He explained that this hearing was at the request of the property owner, and asked again if the owner was here. Property owner was not present in person nor via Zoom. Mr. Durkin stated that since the hearing was properly posted, the Board should they move forward and vote on whether to uphold the order to correct and notice of violations.

Mr. Carli replied yes and made a **motion** to uphold the order to correct and notice of violations. Dr. Fleet seconded the motion. Mr. Durkin asked if there were any discussions on the motion before we proceed. Ms.

Cameron reported that the issues with respect to the gas meter have been addressed, the heat is back on. According to National Grid he has to introduce additional ventilation into the boiler room which to her understanding has not been completed but they do now have heat, they do now have smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, they have replaced the stove, have satisfied the building inspector that the stove is properly vented, have replaced the faulty ceiling tiles, replaced the light switch and installed the signs we had required. She said the outstanding issues at this time are primarily that there is an infestation so they need to do extermination which they are working on but a lot of the issues are related to the sanitation of the occupant, so they are working with the occupant to address those before bringing in the exterminator. The last issue is the lack of natural light in the back bedroom. Under state sanitary code, for each habitable room, they have to have glass that admits light from the outdoors based on percentage of square footage. They have a window but it opens on an interior hallway, and it also doesn't meet building code requirements for a bedroom due to egress. They could possibly swap bedroom with the living room, but we would still have the window issue with the living room. They do have egress from the bedroom into the hallway, and there is light because in the common hallway there is a big window, and that is what she thought the owner was going to come to request but she said she will not request on his behalf but asked if this would be something they would even entertain. Mr. Carli said he believes there may be other building issues, can't have egress through a bedroom. Ms. Cameron said even if we require the rooms to be switched there is no guarantee they will do it or keep it as we are not going to monitor the building usage. Mr. Carli and Mr. Durkin said they would want to see floor plans before agreeing to anything. Ms. Cameron said that the order is being upheld so the order requires him to do something, so he would have to apply for a variance and to consider that you'd want to see a floor plan, and you want the opinion of the building commissioner, and want us to take a look at what is the legal use of the building. Mr. Carli said that is correct. Mr. Carli asked if he owns the entire building. Ms. Cameron said he does. Mr. Carli asked if we are looking at the entire building or just this unit. Ms. Cameron replied this is the only unit we received a complaint about and the only unit we have had access to.

Mr. Durkin said that they have a motion and a second, and asked for a vote. It was unanimously agreed to uphold the uphold the order to correct and violations.

## **BUSINESS**

**Subject:** Approval of minutes of September 28, 2023- Vote anticipated to approve or amend minutes.

**Discussion:** Mr. Durkin asked if anyone had any comments on the minutes or if they would like to make a motion to approve. Mr. Carli made a **Motion** to approve the September 2023 minutes. Dr. Fleet seconded the motion. A vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed to approve the minutes.

**Subject:** Environmental updates- Rousselot

**Discussion:** Ms. Cameron reported that they had a couple of odor complaints about Rousselot in the past month. She said that she has continued to request a meeting with DEP to learn more about what their role will be in the decommissioning of Rousselot, and they have responded that they are not ready to meet yet. She said that they have already started decommissioning some of their processes, have already received their last batch of bone and started processing that, so equipment will start to be taken off -line. The wastewater plant which will be the thing most likely to result in a nuisance will be one of the very last things to come off- line, but that is still months away. The state put an earmark of \$100,000 into the state budget to help Peabody to contract with a consultant to figure out what the best future use of that site will be, but part of those funds will be used to hire a consultant to ensure the City is doing whatever due diligence is needed to decommission the business. Mr. Durkin asked if she expects to have issue with nuisance odors. She said yes and they have been there for 200 years and there is an expectation that there may be contaminated soil, asbestos, and also there are chemicals that are permitted by the fire department that have to be transported off safely, so there is concern for the nuisance issues and also general environmental issues.

**Subject:** Environmental updates- Rodent control

**Discussion:** Ms. Cameron reminded the Board that the City had ended its pilot program with smart boxes and has contracted with a different vendor for different smart boxes which have been deployed. Due to budgetary reasons, there are about half the number that there were before and they are focused on the downtown area. She explained that the trash issue remains a problem but said they will be doing an educational program with PAT about preventing rodent issues, proper management of the environment, and will put it on the webpage as well for people to access. Mr. Durkin asked if there was any further talk of standard trash totes or anything. Ms. Cameron replied that there is talk, the Mayor is very interested in that and has indicated that he is going to have discussions with the trash hauler, so it is still part of the longer term plan.

**Subject:** Code enforcement updates: a) Housing: 148 Washington St.

**Discussion:** Scheduled for a hearing at 5:15. She said that they continue having issues with Republic Services violating the city ordinances around pickup times and also using vehicles that are not maintained properly and are leaking hydraulic fluid all over the city. She said they have issued them citations which have not been paid, so are at a point where additional steps will have to be taken and she said she is working with the Mayor's office to see what their next steps will be.

**Subject:** Code enforcement updates: b) Nuisances: 15 King St.; Republic Services; 122 Foster St; 53 Endicott St; 16 County St; 27 Felton St; 5 Elmwood Cir; 72 Central St; 12 Hog Hill Rd; 11 Center St; 261 Newbury St; 16 Sherman St; 22 Joy Rd; 24 Joy Rd; 17 Calumet St; 116 Foster St; 16 Paleologos St.

**Discussion:** Reviewed. Ms. Cameron noted that on 15 King Street, the old JB Thomas property, they went back to court and they signed an agreement with the city agreeing to step up monitoring, have an onsite presence at the site at least weekly, they have weekly pest control at the site inside and outside, are addressing the nuisance issues that had been cited, so the City Solicitor had the complaint dismissed.

**Subject:** Code enforcement updates: c) Animals: 46 Catherine Dr.

**Discussion:** Reviewed

**Subject:** Code enforcement updates: d) Food: 16 Stockton Rd.

**Discussion:** Cease and desist order issued to someone who was selling food prepared in her kitchen after receiving a complaint about it. Person has decided to stop her business rather than get a permit and will now be giving cooking classes instead. Cameron said this type of complaint is something they see frequently, as it doesn't occur to people that they must get a permit.

**Subject:** Permitting updates- List of permits issued in September 2023

**Discussion:** Mr. Durkin asked what types of permits the new Bell Inn would have. Ms. Cameron said that have a food permit for the Dining room and the Speak Easy and a Hotel permit as well.

**Subject:** Public Health Nursing updates- a) September 2023 surveillance report; b) Vaccination updates

**Discussion:** Reviewed. Mr. Durkin noted that it looks like Coronavirus numbers are down a little. Ms. Cameron said they are actually having a little uptick in cases, they are hearing about the cases but because they are not being confirmed, they are not included in the report. She added that Public Health Nurse Chassea Robinson has been going gangbusters with her flu clinics, she is holding big public clinics on a weekly basis and going to every school, and going to all of the senior housing developments and she is also doing home visits to those who need that, so by the time she is done will have done about 28 clinics while most communities are doing just one so she is really putting it out there to make it accessible for people. In terms of Covid vaccine people are having a hard time getting it, and we weren't sure at first that we would be offering it because we thought people would be getting it at their primary care or at pharmacies, but people are reporting that a lot of primary care practices have decided not to offer it, and she asked Dr. Fleet if she has heard anything. Dr. Fleet said that she has heard the same, that doctors are referring everyone to pharmacies. Ms. Cameron said that they

have decided as a region that they are going to have a booster clinic at least one in every member community. She said it is a little risky because they state does not provide the vaccine for them, except for children and the uninsured, but a large percentage of those the Health Dept vaccinates are senior citizens on Medicare, who are not in those groups, so the City will have to privately pay for the vaccine. Private pay presents a financial risk if the vaccine goes unused, so they will need to be strict about pre-registration and just order the number of doses for those who pre-register so they will not suffer a big loss on that.

**Subject:** Social Service updates

**Discussion:** Ms. Cameron said that she expects the postings for the social worker and the care coordinator to be out in a day or two. The Mayor is sending out notices to people sitting on the social service commission and will be convening a meeting soon. The social service commission is for strategic guidance to make sure that they are going in the right direction, make sure that they are making the right connections and to make sure that they have identified the appropriate needs, so they really won't be involved in the day- to- day management of staff, but we expect we will be meeting on a quarterly basis with them to update them. She said the newcomer families are in hotels, and the Governor declared this week that they are going to put a cap on the number of people they assist. Cameron's concern is that this declaration will probably not stop people from coming, that they will likely come to those communities where there are already other people from their home countries, and if the state is not serving them then more will fall to the communities to provide services. She said this day the state education Commissioner came to Peabody to meet to see how things are going with the integration of the children into the schools and it was a really good to have the opportunity to share, and Peabody is in pretty good shape, we've been able to meet a lot of the needs, there is a lot of community support. In some other communities there has been a lot of backlash but we haven't seen that here. She added that she is a little concerned about the declaration, she understands the reason for it but doesn't think it will keep people from coming. Mr. Durkin agreed.

She said in regard to newcomer families they continue to have 3 hotels with approximately 330 people placed there.

**Subject:** Performance Standards for Local Health Departments

**Discussion:** Ms. Cameron said this grew out of conversations right before the beginning of the pandemic in 2019, the state commission on local and regional health had issued a set of recommendations for public health excellence. She said she was on that committee that developed those recommendations representing communities with populations of over 50,000, and the recommendations of that document led to the funding for the state action for public health excellence or SAPHE grants, the one we share with 7 other communities on the North Shore. We have used the funds to do things like hire a regional inspector, a regional public health nurse and a regional epidemiologist. This was one of the impacts this report had, but also now the State Public Health Commission just formally adopted those recommendations a couple of weeks ago and laid out some performance standards that all communities need to work towards. She said this isn't going to be a quick process, but over the years will bring about changes. The idea is to bring about equity, and they have found that right now the quality of service you receive depends on where you live, and we want everyone in the state to have the same high level of service. They are including things like workforce credentialling, and are moving toward meeting the foundational services, going beyond inspections and to looking at things like health equity issues and a lot more robust prevention programs. She said it was released just last week and she is sure she will have more to say in the future. She added that there is some concern about workforce standards because it requires that people like inspectors to achieve a registered sanitarian position within six years and you can't do that unless you have a college degree and a lot of the existing workforce does not have that credential, so one of the challenges is how to keep the existing workforce while raising the bar and not driving the existing workforce away.

**Subject:** North Shore Shared Public Health Services Intermunicipal Agreement

**Discussion:** Ms. Cameron explained that this is the agreement for the regional Public Health Excellence grant that Salem holds, and said that Mr. Durkin, as the chairman of the Board of Health, signed off on it, and the

Mayor signed off on said it is quite a lot of money, about \$300,000 per year. Mr. Durkin said it really makes sense to coordinate with other communities like this. Ms. Cameron agreed and said now we have somebody who can create social media postings if we have new public health issues, instead of her having to do it. They have been helping Chassea with Flu clinics, the epidemiologist has been helping with the evaluation plan for the new social services division and it is such a luxury having that capacity.

**Subject:** City Council updates- Proposed vacant property ordinance

**Discussion:** Ms. Cameron explained that this was put forth by the Mayor. Mr. Carli said Everett had a similar ordinance as well. He said they did it during the economic downturn in 2006-2008 and it wasn't for owners as much as for banks for foreclosures, they had to have a local manager and it worked well. He said it wasn't to create revenue, and once banks learned that they had the ordinance the banks sought them out. Most big banks have a property manager in the state that will respond and handle rodent control pretty quickly. Ms. Cameron said it was supposed to be heard last week but was put off but hopefully by late fall should be heard. She said hopefully they will have their new inspector trained by then. She added that they do have a new inspector who will be ready to start in a week or so and is fluent in Spanish which will be great.

**Subject:** Correspondence: a) From Boston Environmental re: 128 Newbury St.; b) From Brown & Caldwell re: Peabody Ash Monofill

**Discussion:** Ms. Cameron said this is an issue that has caused concern for neighbors over the course of the past couple of decades because they have not been able to get the VOC levels below the drinking water standards. The concern was that there would be vapor intrusion to some of the homes so they did some mitigation, and according to this they say they have found that they have done sufficient mitigation so there are no exposure pathways to the indoor air to those residences, but there is still some contamination in the ground water, so it's not a complete remediation. Mr. Durkin said that it appears that the plan is to just continue to monitor. Ms. Cameron replied that this project is really monitored by the DEP but we are involved because people are concerned about the potential for health impacts.

At 5:45 Mr. Carli made a motion to adjourn, which Dr. Fleet seconded, and all were in agreement.

**Adjournment:** 5:34 p.m.

**Next meeting date:** November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Greene, Clerk to BOH