



TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE BOARD OF HEALTH

Aldrich School Town Hall Annex - 14 Hill Street
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The Northbridge Board of Health approved these minutes at a meeting held December 14, 2021.

MEETING MINUTES - NOVEMBER 16, 2021

This meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Ms. Lani Criasia, Chair. Other members present were Mr. Chris Cella, Mr. Steve Garabedian and Ms. Linda Lermond. Also present was Jeanne M. Gniadek, BOH Administrator.

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Criasia tabled the reading of the November 9, 2021 meeting minutes.

Advinia Care at Northbridge: Present for this meeting was Mr. David Jasinski, Executive Director of Advinia Care at Northbridge (formerly Beaumont).

Mr. Jasinski apologized for not being present at the Board's last meeting. He stated that he has since made corrections within his office to ensure that he would receive any and all notices from the Board.

Ms. Criasia noted that the food permit application and fee had been submitted. She noted that this application would be for his 2021 permit and that he would need to re-apply for a 2022 food permit. Mr. Jasinski stated he understood.

Mr. Jasinski gave a brief background on the facility noting that Advinia Care took over the facility on September 1, 2021. It is a 154 bed facility with 26 assisted living units and a daycare center for children. Mr. Cella questioned whether the facility was full. Mr. Jasinski stated that due to covid, while they are licensed for 154 beds, they are operating as a 134 bed facility at this time. Advinia owns 11 facilities – eight in New England and three in Florida.

Mr. Jasinski stated that there are no current legionella cases at the facility. He informed the Board that there was one case in September – that patient was hospitalized with pneumonia-like symptoms and has since been discharged and returned to Advinia. He did note that there was one fatality in December of 2020, prior to them owning this facility.

Mr. Jasinski stated that the water quality issue is not a new issue at this facility. He stated that he is working with Randy Swigor at the Whitinsville Water Company and their consultant IWC to rectify the situation. Mr. Jasinski stated he was informed that the water line coming into the building is a 10-inch line and that upon the recommendation of Mr. Swigor they intend to marry the two lines coming in into one 2-inch line.

Mr. Jasinski stated that IWC tests the water every two weeks. On October 7, 2021 they performed a water remediation – this remediation was a 9-hour process. Chlorine was injected into they water system and then allowed to “sit and bake” for three hours.

Mr. Cella questioned if the water system was treated on October 7th then why does the October 18, 2021 test results of 29 locations say “Positive” for L.pneumophila, serogroup 1 (legionella) for most of the testing locations? Shouldn’t they be Negative or not found? Mr. Jasinski responded that as long as the result is below 1 CFU/ml then no action is required. He stated that the chemist he is working with says that “0” is not realistic to obtain. All of these results on October 18th were in the safe zone.

Mr. Jasinski stated that he is obtaining quotes for the necessary plumbing work. Right now he has one quote and he is working to obtain at least two more quotes.

Mr. Jasinski reviewed a timeline/plan with the Board. In this plan it notes that they have entered an agreement with the Whitinsville Water Company to flush the two water hydrants monthly.

Other items in his plan included:

- Bathroom faucets flushed daily
- Water and ice are delivered 3 times a week
- Ice machine remains disconnected
- Eye wash stations flushed weekly
- Water heaters flushed 3 times/week
- Shower filters and faucet aerators are replaced every 90 days
- Backflow preventors are checked bi-annually

Ms. Criasia questioned how they came up with 90 days for the replacement for shower filters noting her concern that the legionella could become airborne and inhaled by residents. Mr. Cella and Mr. Garabedian questioned what his definition of “flushing” was as their definition may be different than theirs. Mr. Cella asked for clarification. Mr. Garabedian questioned who performed the work. Mr. Jasinski stated that his maintenance staff performs the work. The Board asked for additional clarification on this, to have the maintenance person note date, time, length of “flushing”, volume discharged, etc. so that they could better understand what measures are being taken.

Mr. Cella asked how often the water tests are being done. Mr. Jasinski stated every two weeks noting that the water was tested again on November 1st – those results are not yet available. The Board questioned what lab is performing the water analysis. Mr. Jasinski thought that IWC performed the test but he was not sure if they sent it out to a separate lab. The Board noted that the lab needs to be certified. Mr. Jasinski will check into this and report back to the Board.

Ms. Criasia stated that for the time being, the Board needs Mr. Jasinski to provide them with any and all water tests that are performed, to provide updates on any actions they take regarding remediation, updates on progress for obtaining quotes and expected timeline for work to begin and to be completed. Mr. Jasinski asked where he should communicate these matters. Ms. Criasia provided him with her cell phone number and advised him to email Ms. Gniadek at the Board of Health and that she would forward all materials to the Board members. Reports from maintenance whether they are weekly or monthly need to be provided and should include greater detail than just “flushing” these plumbing fixtures.

Mr. Cella noted his concern that the parent company could deny recommended changes. Mr. Jasinski assured the Board that he is working with Michael Brown, regional facilities engineer and Chris Hannon, CEO of Advinia and that he is confident that Advinia will support recommendations to resolve the water quality issue.

Ms. Criasia stated that it's about the health and safety of the patients and the residents at this facility regardless of whether they are short or long term.

Correspondence: *The following correspondence was distributed to the Board:*

- Covid Pediatric Clinic in Uxbridge on November 20, 2021
- Planning Board Notice – Fire Station Site Plan Review

There being no further business, motion to adjourn at 6:40 PM was made by Mr. Cella and seconded by Mr. Garabedian – all in favor.

Attested by,

Jeanne M. Gniadek, Administrator

Next Meeting scheduled for: December 14, 2021 at 5:30 PM

List of Documents utilized by Board of Health
Meeting Date: November 16, 2021

A. Approval of Minutes

- 1) November 9, 2021 DRAFT Meeting Minutes

B. Advinia Care @ Northbridge

- 2) Water Quality Issue
 - a. Water Management Plan (October 28, 2021) (IWC Innovations)
 - b. IWC Innovations Report – Test Results
- 3) 2021 Food Permit
 - a. Cease & Desist Order (hand-delivered) (November 10, 2021)
 - b. Application for Permit to Operate a Food Establishment

C. Old & New Business

D. Citizen's Forum - *None*

E. Correspondence

- Covid-19 Vaccination Clinic Flyer for ages 5-11 (Uxbridge clinic)
- Planning Board Notice – Site Plan Review Meeting – Fire Station