The meeting of the Melrose Board of Health came to order at 8:14 pm on Thursday October 12, 2017 in the Lower Level Conference Room of Melrose City Hall. Present at the meeting were board members Maurine Garipay, Frank Brincheiro, and Joe DiPietro as well as staff Ruth Clay and Maureen Buzby. Cheryl Sbarra, attorney for the MA Association of Health Boards, was also present.

Approval of minutes of September 14, 2017: Minutes were approved 3:0:0 with one spelling correction.

Approval of minutes of January 19, 2017: Minutes were approved as presented 2:0:1.

Public Hearing: Revisions to the Regulations Concerning the Sale of Tobacco including a Permit Cap and Proximity Ban: Public Hearing was opened. A letter of support from Tobacco Free Massachusetts was received. Public Hearing was closed. The Board reviewed a map of Melrose which showed existing tobacco retailers and a 500 foot circumference around all schools. Buzby handed out a chart with a comparison of retail tobacco store density per 1000 people for the communities in this Coalition. It was noted that Melrose’s density was very low. Sbarra gave a copy of the MMA lists showing communities that have permit caps and proximity bans. Motion was made DiPietro, seconded by Brinchiero to amend the existing Sale of Tobacco regulations to include language to “cap the number of Tobacco Product Sales Permits existing in Melrose to that number at the date of the public hearing. No permit renewal will be denied based on the requirements of the subsection except any permit holder who has failed to renew his or her permit within thirty (30) days of expiration will be treated as a first-time permit applicant” and “A Tobacco Product Sales Permit shall not be issued to any new applicant for an available permit for a retail location situated within five hundred (500) feet of a public or private elementary or secondary schools as measured by a straight line from the nearest point of the property line of the school to the nearest point of the property line of the site of the applicant’s business premises.” An effective date of October 19, 2017 was set. Motion passed 3:0:0.

Health Director’s Report: Board reviewed the written report and reviewed the comments made by the Heath Director concerning proposed changes to the Housing Code in detail.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Meeting handouts:

Agenda
Draft minutes of September 14, 2017
Chart by Buzby showing density of retail tobacco stores in the communities in the regional grant
Listing by MMA of communities who have adopted permit caps and proximity bans for tobacco retailers.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth L. Clay, MPH
Health Director