

Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
January 27, 2020

2020 FEB 25 PM 2:43

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Julie C. Lemay, MPH, Chair.

Those present were Julie C. Lemay, MPH, Chair; Donna S. David, R.N., M.N., Vice Chair; Stephen M. Fiore, Esq., Member; Wesley B. Chin, Health Director; Diana Ekman, Assistant Health Director; Maria Reddington, Clerk; Mr. Franklin Tucker, of the Belmontonian, was present for part of the meeting.

There was no public participation.

Board Members welcomed Dr. Adrienne Allen to the meeting. Dr. Allen is the Medical Director of Quality and Safety at North Shore Physicians Group, and a member of Belmont's Energy Committee. Dr. Allen presented her report about the adverse health effects of natural gas use. Dr. Allen explained that nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) is formed each time a fossil fuel, such as natural gas, is burned. NO<sub>2</sub> increases inflammation of airways, causing worsened coughs and asthma attacks; is likely the cause of asthma in children; and contributes to reactions that make ozone. Dr. Allen identified gas stove use in residential homes as being problematic.

The Belmont Energy Committee has outlined a climate action roadmap for Belmont but collaboration opportunities must be realized to ensure success. Board members agreed that town-wide collaboration opportunities are needed, and suggested this presentation be made to the Office of Community Development. It may be possible that Building Inspectors could encourage contractors to include installation of alternate appliances and home heating sources when submitting residential home renovation plans for review. Board members thanked Dr. Allen for sharing her presentation.

The December 16, 2019 Meeting Minutes as presented were approved by a vote of 3-0.

The Receipts report was reviewed.

The Director's report was reviewed with the following topics discussed:

- Housing Case #1 – A court appointed investigator has been in contact with Health Department staff. Neighbors continue to file complaints that no improvements have been made to the property. The condemnation order issued in November remains in place.
- Staff have noticed an increase in Belmont Housing Authority (BHA) resident complaints about mold and mice.
- Tobacco Control – the revised fine schedule, in accordance with *105 CMR 665.000: MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR RETAIL SALE OF TOBACCO AND ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS*, applies to the sale of tobacco products to anyone under the age of 21, or the sale of flavored tobacco products. This is a state regulation. All other violations will follow our local regulation fine structure of \$100, \$200, and \$300.

Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
January 27, 2020

- Tobacco Control continued – Wes reports that Paula Silverman, Tobacco Control Program Coordinator, has still not found students to recruit to conduct tobacco compliance checks. Ms. David said she may have students at Belmont Hill School willing to participate.
- A member of Belmont High School's Climate Action Club has scheduled a meeting with Health Department staff to talk about instituting a 10-cent fee per checkout bag policy, similar to the City of Cambridge model.
- *Planning for an Age-Friendly Belmont* report was included with the Director's report. Health Department staff will participate in the periodic meetings.
- Budget happenings – The Annual Report is due February 14<sup>th</sup>. Staff will notify Board members of the scheduled Warrant Committee meeting date.
- There was a brief discussion about the MBTA reduced-fee pass program for youth. The Program will be coordinated by Janet Amdur.

The Assistant Director's report was reviewed with the following topics discussed:

- Staff met with Vintage Tea & Cake, Moozy's, and Yum Bunnies at recent Restaurant Review Committee meetings.
- Attendance at a MDPH hosted meeting about EEE – The meeting focused on review of the 2019 season, and possible changes for the 2020 season. Many attendees were from cities/towns who had a lot of activity in 2019. One of the proposed changes for 2020 is to conduct mosquito surveillance and testing Sunday through Thursday, to avoid releasing results on a Friday. This change may assist local Town's in providing timely public outreach for appropriate weekend planning.
- MDPH Internship – The Intern will likely focus on rodent control as in past years. A possible long-term project to consider is an initiative to educate the public as to what municipal health department's do.
- Housing cases update:
  - Case #1 – All violations are corrected, but tenant has filed a new complaint stating the unit heat comes on even though the thermostat is off.
  - Case #2 – The property owners continue to make good progress, and continue to attend local decluttering groups.

The Food Inspection report was reviewed.

The Disease and Nurse reports were reviewed. The Nurse's report provided good information on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus.

The Youth and Family Services report was reviewed.

Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
January 27, 2020


The Animal Care and Control report was reviewed. There was a brief discussion about dogs being off leash, and a resident's proposal to ban the sale of dogs and cats in Belmont pet shops.

The Veterans' Services Report was reviewed, noting Bob is spending a lot of time with the recertification process of current Chapter 115 claimants.

The next Board of Health meetings are scheduled for February 24, 2020 and March 30, 2020, at 5:30 pm.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Julie Lemay, Chair