

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2020

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: July 17, 2020
TIME: 9:08 AM

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm by Julie C. Lemay, MPH, Chair.

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

There was no public participation.

Board Members welcomed Ms. Joan Teebagy to discuss the Sheep Grazing Program at Rock Meadow - Spring 2020 (the "Program"):

- Board members were provided a written summary of the Program by Ms. Joan Teebagy.
- Ms. Teebagy, Program Manager, told Board members this will be the 5th year of this successful pilot program.
- The Conservation Commission cancelled their meeting scheduled for February 4, 2020. As a result they have not yet approved the Program for 2020.
- Rotational grazing is utilized within the same general area at Rock Meadow. The rotation is dependent upon the meadow management plan of the Conservation Commission.
- Volunteers work on a rotating schedule, with Ms. Teebagy present during most rotations.
- Fencing details were described. Sheep are locked up at night in a hut, surrounded by predator-proof fencing.
- Suzanne Trasavage, Animal Care and Control Officer, said Ms. Teebagy does a great job managing the Program, and has no concerns at this time.
- Wes told the Board that the office does not receive complaints concerning the Program.
- Ms. Teebagy has emergency plans in place for weather events. She also has a plan in the event she became unable to care for the sheep.

The Board voted 2 – 0 to approve a Keeping of Animals Permit for the Sheep Grazing Program at Rock Meadow – Spring 2020.

The January 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes as presented were approved by a vote of 2-0.

The Receipts report was reviewed.

The Financial report was reviewed. Mr. Fiore asked about the Medical Supply budget item. There was a brief discussion as to what could be purchased from this line item..

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

- Housing Case #1 – The neighbors continue to be concerned about the condition of the property, specifically about loose wood on the roof. The property owner responded to the violation notice

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2020

concerning the wood and said it would be repaired. The condemnation order issued in November remains in place.

- COVID-19 - Wesley reported the risk of getting COVID-19 remains low in Massachusetts. Health Department staff have participated in CDC and MDPH webinars and conference calls. Staff has also worked closely with School and Council on Aging staff, providing public advisories as warranted.
- Suzanne Trasavage, Animal Care and Control Officer, is on medical leave for approximately four weeks. We wish her a full and speedy recovery!
- Wes and Diana attended an emergency preparedness tabletop exercise. The purpose of the exercise was to identify deficiencies in local plans in case the need arose for widespread distribution of medicine to the community.
- Tobacco Control – The compliance checks will be done this week. We are thankful that Donna David was able to find students for us.
- Paper bag policy – On February 3rd, staff met with Ms. Madeline Kitch, student founder of the Climate Action Club at Belmont High School to discuss a mandated fee per paper bag bylaw in Belmont. Ms. Kitch hopes the Club will complete a proposal for a warrant article for the Spring Town Meeting.
- Age Friendly Advisory Council – The next meeting is scheduled for February 25th. The Group will meet every three weeks until May, working on a 5 year action plan to address seniors' concerns.
- Budget happenings – Health Department budget meetings are scheduled:
 - March 13th – Capital Budget Committee to discuss funding to purchase the leased vehicle currently used by Health Department staff.
 - March 23rd – Health & Human Services Subcommittee of the Warrant Committee will meet to review and discuss the FY21 proposed budget. The meeting will begin at 5:30 pm and Board of Health members are invited to the meeting.

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

- Craft Beer Cellar will relocate to space in the former Foodies Market space. A plan review application will be required.
- Smoke-free housing concern – A Belmont resident called to discuss marijuana and tobacco smoke wafting to their unit. Complainant reports the second hand smoke is coming up from a first floor unit to the second floor unit. The Housing Code does not address this concern, but smoke-free information was provided to the complainant to share with the property owner. Staff also offered to conduct an inspection for weather-tightness in the unit.
- Staff attended the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Workshop, a requirement for the Towns' grant funding eligibility. Health Department staff focused on hazards of increased storm water flooding events, drought events, and excessive heat events.
- Health Department and Belmont Police Department (BPD) staff met to discuss future housing cases that may involve children. BPD have frequent contact with school staff and experience with

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2020

questionable situations which may require referral to the State's Department of Children & Families. Health Department staff will update BPD staff as needed.

- Housing cases update:
 - Case #1 – All violations are corrected, except the cluttered basement. The property owner requested written documentation to confirm all violations have been resolved.
 - Case #2 – The property owners continue to make good progress, and continue to attend local decluttering groups.
 - Case #3 - An order letter was delivered to both the occupant and Belmont Housing Authority (BHA) for this Unit. BHA has resolved the violations addressed in their order letter.

The Food Inspection report was reviewed.

The Disease and Nurse reports were reviewed. The COVID-19 Risk Assessment flow chart is helpful. Board members requested the Disease report include the prior years' figures.

The Youth and Family Services report was reviewed.

The Animal Care and Control report was reviewed.

The Veterans' Services Report was reviewed, noting Bob is preparing for the Memorial Day Parade.

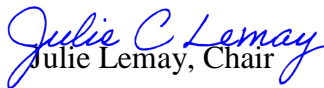
There was a brief discussion about the JUUL lawsuit filed by Attorney General Maura Healey.

Julie Lemay continues to attend The Bradford Development at Cushing Square meetings.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for March 30, 2020 at 5:30 pm.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Julie Lemay, Chair