

DATE: July 21, 2020  
TIME: 9:49 AM

Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
April 27, 2020

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm by Julie C. Lemay, MPH, Chair.

In keeping with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law" – The Board of Health Meeting of March 30, 2020 was held by Remote Access through ZOOM.

Those participating 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; David Neylon, RN, CIC, REHS, Public Health Nurse; Suzanne Trasavage, Animal Care and Control Officer; Maria Reddington, Clerk; Also in attendance by remote access were Franklin Tucker, Editor of The Belmontonian; Frederique Rigoulot, Belmont Media Center.

There was no public participation.

The Board voted 3-0 a reorganization of the Board as follows:

Stephen M. Fiore, Chair

Julie C. Lemay, Vice Chair

Donna S. David, Member

A proposal to adopt ***Temporary Emergency Regulation #1 of the Belmont Board of Health and the Belmont Select Board*** (the "Regulation") was discussed:

- The Regulation concerns mandating the use of face masks by members of the public entering any essential business, and employees working inside an essential business.
- Steve Fiore asked if fines would be included in the Regulation. Wes said it was decided to not include fines at this time. He said a fine schedule can be added to the Regulation at a later date if needed. If an amendment was needed, it could be done at the next Board of Health and Select Board meetings, or call for an emergency meeting.
- Essential businesses will feel more empowered to enforce the use of face masks if this Regulation was adopted.
- Essential businesses can post the notice of the Regulation at the entrance(s) of the establishments.
- Some neighboring communities require the use of face masks when the public is outdoors. Belmont's Regulation will only require face masks when social distancing is not possible.

The Board voted 3-0 to adopt the Temporary Emergency Regulation #1 of the Belmont Board of Health and Belmont Select Board.

Suzanne Trasavage provided a brief update concerning the Off Leash Program, noting the Program has been temporarily suspended. This means dogs are not allowed off leash in any Belmont parks. Suzanne said dog owners are concerned their dogs are not getting enough exercise. As a result many are going to Rock Meadow and Cambridge Reservoir. Suzanne also said she receives an average of 6 calls per week of reports of varying non-compliance.

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Staff provided the following COVID-19 update:

- Wes said the past month has been a trying time for the community. There were 53 reported deaths related to COVID-19, 51 of which were attributed to residents at a long-term care facility. Health department staff, as well as other departments, have participated in regular check-ins with the facility. It appears fatalities have slowed down in the facility.
- Belmont School nurses have volunteered to assist with contact tracing. The department has also signed on with the State for additional contact tracing assistance.
- Julie Lemay asked if school nurses are covered in confidentiality matters. David Neylon said they are, all confidentiality matters are reviewed with contact tracers.
- Steve Fiore commended Wes, Diana, and David for all the work they've done for the community. Wes shared his gratitude for all the departments working with the Health department during this pandemic.

There was a brief discussion concerning the expiration date of Annual Permits:

- There are a number of annual permits which may expire before they can be renewed.
- Local boards of health have the authority to extend permits beyond the expiration date.
- Food establishments – permits expire May 30<sup>th</sup>, and they will need time after re-opening to have enough money to renew their permits.
- More guidance concerning the re-opening of businesses should be available soon.
- This matter will be discussed at the Board of Health public meeting in June.

The February 24, 2020 Meeting Minutes were approved by a vote of 2-0, following the addition of the italicized verbiage: Donna S. David, R.N., M.N., Vice Chair; was absent from the meeting: *due to an unforeseen change in travel.*

The March 30, 2020 Meeting Minutes were approved as presented by a vote of 3-0.

The Director/Assistant Director Report was reviewed with the following discussed:

- Wes and Diana are overlapping work efforts in the event one of them should become ill.
- There have been only two housing complaints, and both were resolved by telephone.
- There have been a limited number of nuisance/rodent complaints compared to last year.
- COVID-19 concerns relating to food establishments have been filed with the department. Staff is working with management to resolve. The main concerns were about face coverings that were not yet mandated. Everyone has been cooperative.
- Some in the community want the parks re-opened.
- There have been some concerns about contract tracers and privacy. The Health Department highly recommends cooperating with contract tracers. They will never ask for someone's social security number or health insurance information. The public is encouraged to contact the Health Department to confirm a contact tracer.

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- Staff has received a number of concerns about lack of social distancing on sidewalks and pathways that are not wide enough. Steve Fiore asked if any communities have re-opened parks. Wes said playgrounds/structures are still closed. It is challenging because exercise is vitally important. Wes added that most concerns are due to groups of youth together. Julie Lemay pointed out that 8<sup>th</sup> grader Ellie Lesser produced a wonderful video about social distancing, perhaps peers will see this video and work on improving their social distancing efforts.
- Dr. Suzanne Johannet has been assisting David Neylon for the past week.

The Animal Control report was reviewed. It is baby animal season so more wildlife is noticed by more people who are home. This provides Suzanne Trasavage an opportunity to educate all the callers! Julie said she notices many new puppies around. Suzanne said the Town Clerk's office continues to issue pet licenses. Suzanne will post information on Facebook for new owners of puppies.

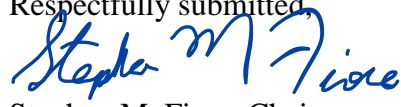
The Veterans' Services Officer report was reviewed.

The Youth and Family Services report was reviewed. The Over 50 Network Group continues to meet remotely.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2020 at 5:30 pm.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen M. Fiore, Chair