

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

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2020**

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 5:38 pm by Stephen M. Fiore, 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 May 18, 2020 was held by Remote Access through ZOOM.

Those participating were Stephen M. Fiore, Esq., Chair; Julie C. Lemay, MPH, Vice Chair; Donna S. David, R.N., M.N.; Member; Wesley B. Chin, Health Director; Diana Ekman, Assistant Health Director; Robert Upton, Veterans' Services Officer; Suzanne Trasavage, Animal Care and Control Officer; Maria Reddington, Clerk;

There was no public participation.

The Board members welcomed Veterans' Services Officer Bob Upton to the meeting. Below is a summary of topics discussed:

- Memorial Day plans for 2020 will be untraditional, but the Town of Belmont will recognize the day as a time of remembrance for our fallen Veterans.
- Governor Baker proclaimed May 25, 2020 to be Memorial Day. A copy of the official Proclamation was included for the Board's review.
- Replacement of a fresh flag at each gravesite is nearly complete.
- There will be no public ceremony at the cemeteries. The VFW Post 1272 and Bob will offer traditional prayers, as well as the playing of Taps. These will be recorded by Belmont Media Center.
- BelmontHelps, an all-volunteer group formed at the beginning of the pandemic, have been very helpful and an important resource for the Belmont veterans presently serviced by Bob. The Beech Street Center has also offered their assistance to the veterans.

The Board thanked Bob for providing an update, as well as for taking such good care of veteran's during this pandemic.

Staff provided the following COVID-19 update:

- Current COVID-19 case count in Belmont is 205 confirmed cases, 59 deaths.
- Recent resident questions have focused on Farmers Market, Underwood Pool, High School Graduation, and face coverings.
- Phase I reopening details were discussed.
- Staff participates in weekly Department of Public Health teleconferences.
- Belmont departments will meet May 20th to discuss access to park areas.
- Each phase of the 4 phase reopening plan will last about 3 weeks. Data will be reviewed before moving on to the next phase.

The April 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes were approved as presented by a vote of 3-0.

The Receipts and Financial reports were reviewed.

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

- Wes and Diana continue to overlap work efforts in the event one of them should become ill.
- Housing concerns have been resolved without in-home inspections. Parties have resolved their concerns over the phone.
- Nuisance complaints received by phone/email: overgrown grass/trash complaints are less than last year. Rodent complaints have increased – staff has been able to provide guidance and education over the phone.
- There have been no routine food establishment inspections done since March.
- June 4th is opening day for the Belmont Farmers Market. They have been pro-active in following DPH guidance to ensure social distancing and cleanliness.
- Steve Fiore asked about food establishments and outside dining. Diana replied there has been no guidance provided at this time. Neighboring states have allowed outside dining, with limited occupancy.
- Donna David asked how food establishment employees are being screened. Typically they are asked questions and their temperature can be taken.
- Julie Lemay asked if food establishment inspections can be conducted if complaints are filed. To date, staff has been able to resolve any complaints by phone with the owner/manager of the food establishment.
- Select Board Chair Roy Epstein wanted to know if the Board of Health approved his edit(s) of Temporary Regulation #2 pertaining to face coverings.
- Cambridge Health Alliance provides community-wide COVID-19 testing for Cambridge and Somerville residents. Belmont residents may request testing at Cambridge Health Alliance, but Belmont is not considered one of the communities specifically served.
- Town Hall reopening is in the planning process. Phase 1 guidance allows 25% or less of allowed occupancy in an office. Although municipal employees are deemed essential, careful consideration is needed.
- There was a brief discussion about opening the Underwood Pool this year. Public pools may be part of the Phase 2 reopening plan, but that date may be in mid-June. The Recreation Commission may want to open the pool July 1st. Steve Fiore said if there is no guidance, the Board of Health cannot offer an opinion.
- Belmont Public School and Belmont Hill School appreciated the guidance from Health Department staff concerning graduation ceremonies.
- Contact tracing efforts have realized less than a 50% response rate.

The Youth and Family Services report was reviewed. Julie Lemay remarked that Janet Amdur is making good progress assisting residents during the pandemic. Janet will reapply for the MassHousing Decluttering Program Grant.

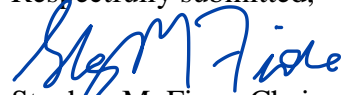
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The Animal Care and Control report was reviewed. Suzanne Trasavage reported that the Phase 1 reopening plan includes pet grooming businesses, and Belmont groomers were notified. The chicken coop plan, included in the ACO report, was very comprehensive. This format may be the preferred submission by residents going forward.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2020 at 5:30 pm.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen M. Fiore, Chair