

DATE: September 15, 2020
TIME: 10:06 AM

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2020**

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 5:32 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 July 20, 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; Suzanne Trasavage, Animal Care and Control Officer; Maria Reddington, Clerk.

Also participating for part of the meeting were Jon Marshall, Assistant Town Administrator; several members of the public.

There was no public participation.

The Off Leash Permit Program (the "Program") was discussed:

- In response to COVID-19 concerns, the Program hours were following a reduced schedule of 6:00 am to 9:00 am at five fields.
- Jon Marshall told the Board that when the Recreation Commission discussed re-opening of the parks, a decision was made to follow a reduced schedule for Program members to prevent co-mingling of people with and without dogs.
- At the last Recreation Commission meeting it was decided to begin regular Program hours.
- Other permitted groups using the park will have priority, and off leash dogs will need to be leashed.
- Suzanne Trasavage reported 2 incidents in the past two months, one incident involved an un-permitted dog and a camper.
- The regular Program hours have been in effect for two weeks.
- Mary Bradley, Belmont resident, said that no other surrounding town has changed their Program since COVID-19. Ms. Bradley also made a request for Suzanne to forward her the complete AVMA report referenced in her monthly report to the Board.
- Julie Lemay asked where the dog/camper interaction occurred. Suzanne said it happened at PQ Park, by a non-permitted dog.
- Donna David asked about the AVMA recommendation to have animals distanced.
- Wesley Chin said he spoke to MDPH and they said the Program is allowable.
- Ms. Juliet Jenkins said it would be beneficial to have permit holders visually identifiable. Suzanne said the tags are visible.
- Adherence to guidance will also be dependent upon reports from the public. Guidance includes social distancing, face coverings, etc. The Board of Health will evaluate the Program at their next public meeting.

The Board voted 3-0 to re-establish full hours of the Off Leash Permit Program.

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The Payson Park Music Festival was discussed:

- Ms. Tomi Olson, Payson Park Music Festival Founder, reviewed the COVID-19 plan submitted to the Recreation Commission and Board of Health.
- Jon Marshall said the Recreation Commission approved the plan with input from the Health Department. The following safety guidelines were discussed: capacity must be less than 100 people, various signage erected, social distancing and face covering critical.
- Health Department staff have received comments of concern with the festival gathering.
- Wesley Chin said it is a good plan and follows the State's guidelines.
- Enforcement of the plan will have to be done by volunteers.
- Julie Lemay said the public should be educated in advance of the event.
- Jon Marshall said the field use permit will be issued week to week.
- Julie Lemay said adherence to using face coverings may be problematic. Give scripts to the volunteers to deal with situations.
- Donna David asked about DPW helping with placement of the circles for social distancing, and who is paying for that? Ms. Olson said one DPW person is assigned to assist at no cost.
- Julie Lemay said week to week permitting is a good procedure to follow. She also wanted to know the dimensions of the park, to ensure there would be enough space between circles to social distance.
- Dr. David Alper said the plan was good, and acknowledges the hard work Town departments did. He suggested an usher should escort attendees to their circle to eliminate confusion. Dr. Alper graciously volunteered to be an usher at the festival's season opener July 22nd.
- It was decided a painted number be added to each circle. As attendees arrive, they will register and be assigned a circle. This identification process will aid in efficient contact tracing if that should be needed.

The Board voted 3-0 to approve the 2020 Payson Park Music Festival with the following guidelines: adherence to State guidance, and guidance discussed at this meeting; continue week to week field usage permitting process through the Recreation Department, and continued collaboration between Recreation Commission and the Board of Health.

Moozy's, 2 Trapelo Road, FOG Variance Request - Wes explained to the Board that Moozy's does not have the capacity to install an external grease trap at this location. Dan MacDonald, Town of Belmont Plumbing Inspector, was contacted and confirmed same. Moozy's has submitted a plan to upgrade their kitchen to include grilled food offerings. An internal grease trap will be installed.

The Board voted 3-0 to approve the FOG Variance request for Moozy's at 2 Trapelo Road.

The Board voted 3-0 to approve the June 22, 2020 Meeting Minutes as presented.

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The Receipts report was reviewed.

The Director/Assistant Director/Public Health Nurse report was reviewed with the following discussed:

- Staff continues the policy of no in person housing inspections.
- Nuisance and rodent activity concerns have increased.
- Lindsey Sharp, Summer Environmental Health Intern, was re-introduced to the Board. Lindsey provided a brief rundown of increased rat activity, noting she has logged 11 complaints since mid-June.
- The Youth Commission Coordinator position will be posted by end of week.
- Pool and camp inspections are complete. There were fewer camps opened this year due to COVID-19.
- There have been a few concerns called in to the office since the re-opening of food establishments, usually about food employees' inconsistent use of face coverings.
- Brianne Gray will be the contract food inspector for FY21. Brie was Belmont's Summer Environmental Health Intern for 2 years and now works for the City of Newton. Brie has experience with the 2013 Food Safety Code, and inspecting Belmont food establishments.
- The Food Establishment Permit annual renewal process will be completed by the end of August.

COVID-19 Update:

- Discussions with Belmont Public Schools for submission of a state required 3 prong school reopening plan by August 11th.
- Weekly updates – Lindsey Sharp will add a FAQ section.
- Assisted Human Resources department with a back to work plan for town employees. 100% of the employees will return to in office work on August 3rd, possible appointments with the public in mid-August.
- Collaborate with Recreation Department concerning camp, Payson Park Music Festival and Off Leash Permit Program.
- Many calls for interpretation of the state's guidance set forth in each phase of the reopening plan.
- Several calls about Beaverbrook Spray Park concerning lack of face coverings being worn. This is DCR property and Belmont rules don't apply. Staff was able to contact DCR, and they have agreed to place signage at the park.
- Belmont's positive test rate January 1st to July 1st was 9.85%. The rate for the last two weeks was .55%.
- Belmont Public School nurses were unable to assist this summer. Dr. Suzanne Johannet agreed to stay on board and assist David through the summer.

The Animal Care and Control report was reviewed.


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The Veterans' Services Officer report was reviewed. Bob drafted a safety plan for National Purple Heart Day August 7th. Bob will seek the Select Board's approval to hold the event at the new Veterans Memorial at Clay Pit Pond.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for August 17, 2020 at 5:30 pm.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen M. Fiore, Chair