

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
August 17, 2020**

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 5:35 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 August 17, 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; Lindsey Sharp, Environmental Health Intern; Maria Reddington, Clerk.

Also participating for part of the meeting were Brandon Fitts, Recreation Director, and several members of the public.

Public participation – Ms. Carlin Sokol, a parent of Belmont Public School students, inquired about the school's reopening plan.

- Superintendent Phelan will follow state guidelines for a staged reopening plan.
- The Board of Health is involved in the planned staged reopening.
- The color-coded chart is currently green for Belmont – why is remote learning being implemented? Decision by the school committee to use a careful approach to reopening.
- Steve Fiore said the ultimate reopening decision is the school committee.
- Ms. Sokol said science is on our side to help make decisions.
- Donna David said schools have many safety measure to put in place prior to reopening.
- Julie said the State's weekly updates will help with the school's reopening plan.

Ms. Tomi Olson provided an update concerning the Payson Park Music Festival:

- The second concert saw more than 100 people in attendance. Only 100 people were allowed in the actual space in order to comply with state guidelines on that date. The overflow of people were directed to sit in their cars along the outside perimeter of the festival space.
- People are advised to stay in their assigned circle during the concert.
- The tot lot area is blocked off with caution tape.
- There is one entrance and one exit to the concert space.
- Face coverings are mandatory.
- Upcoming concerts will have no more than 50 people in attendance, in accordance with amended state guidelines for outdoor gatherings.
- Brandon Fitts, Recreation Director, recently attended a concert and said the logistics were well organized. As a result of Brandon's report, the Recreation Commission agreed to extend the concert season by one more concert.
- Steve Fiore asked Wes if he was aware of any concerns. Wes said he received reports that the music was too loud one week, which is not in violation of current bylaws; children were using the playground; and gatherings at the grassy sections of the parks' perimeter. All of these concerns were resolved by Ms. Olson.
- Ms. Janice Knight said she was at a concert and felt everything was handled well, and the rules were explained to people as they entered the festival.

Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
August 17, 2020

Mr. Paul Roberts and Mr. Scot Dedeo, co-directors of the Foundation for Belmont Education Apple Run, presented their plan for a virtual race:

- A slideshow presentation was shared.
- The event was f/k/a the Dan Schartman Run.
- Due to COVID guidance for gatherings, this year's run will be a virtual event, with a virtual run window of 10 days, from October 2<sup>nd</sup> through October 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Only families can run in groups.
- Only online reservations for run slots, not more than 25 people at the same time.
- The course will have signage.
- Race bibs will be delivered if it is a local drop off, mailed if the participant resides out of town.
- Celebration will be online – social media, Instagram photos.
- Wes said the virtual race plan follows state guidance, and has been confirmed with the MA Department of Public Health.
- If public concerns are raised, Wes will contact Mr. Roberts or Mr. Mr. DeDeo.

The Board voted 3-0 to approve the July 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes following a correction on Page 1: Change **AMVA** to **AVMA**.

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

- Housing cases – 1 case has been resolved; 1 case has been referred to the Attorney General's office.
- The Department has seen an increase in nuisance complaints, specifically overgrown grass, trash, and rodents.
- Lindsey Sharp talked about the department's response to rat complaints – an educational notice is mailed to a neighborhood which outlines suggestions for property owners to contact professional pest control, elevate garden beds, secure trash and compost bins.
- 11 applicants applied for the Youth Commission Coordinator's position prior to the closing date of August 14<sup>th</sup>. Human Resources will help to identify candidates.
- Summer camps will continue through the end of September.
- The Recreation Department's SKIP camp was a first year success.
- There were no known COVID cases during camp season. Camp counselors did a great job with safety protocols.

COVID-19 Assistance with other Town departments:

- Schools – Health Department provided guidance only.
- Town-wide – Weekly update.
- Human Resources – Travel orders/vacation
- Recreation Department – Softball league, Payson Park, Fall activities
- Town Hall Reopening Plan – Departments are at 100% staffing, public will be permitted in town buildings in the next few weeks.

Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
August 17, 2020

Calls and emails received:

- Food establishment table spacing does not make sense, table edges are 6 feet apart, but people are not.
- Children running around in food establishments, bumping into elderly patrons.
- Ping Pong tables in the Center – Wes will ask the owner of Champions Sporting Goods to place wipes and hand sanitizer at the table, and clean the paddles between groups.
- Too many people are waiting for their takeout orders inside the establishment.
- Request for the Town's weekly update to include test rates.
- COVID testing questions – call ahead for Stop the Spread sites, usually 72 hour turn-around time for results, 75% of the time.
- Religious facility is exempt from 50 person limit when holding services outdoors.
- If a Massachusetts resident has a gym membership in Rhode Island, are they exempt from travel order? NO!

The Animal Care and Control report was reviewed. Included in the report was an Off Leash Permit Program update. Suzanne will start issuing violation notices to people without a Permit. Also, there has been an uptick in reports of bats in residential homes.

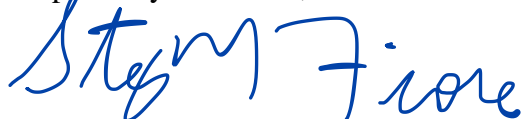
The Veterans' Services Officer report was reviewed. National Purple Heart Day was observed August 7<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Bob and staff from the Department of Public Works, Animal Care and Control, and Health Department for help in setting up.

Wes has been asked to make a 10% to 15% departmental budget cut recommendation for FY22.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2020 at 5:30 pm.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen M. Fiore, Chair