

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
September 21, 2020**

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 5:03 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 September 21, 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; Lindsey Sharp, Environmental Health Intern; Maria Reddington, Clerk.

There was no public participation.

The Board voted 3-0 to approve the August 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

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

- Housing concerns have been addressed and resolved by telephone and mail. Health Department staff continue to refrain from in-house inspections.
- An unresolved and complex housing matter may be transferred to the Attorney General's office for further action.
- Typical nuisance complaints are mostly resolved through phone calls when possible. Verification of a complaint by drive-by is sometimes necessary.
- Lindsey Sharp reviewed a comparison chart showing rodent complaints are slightly down this September. Lindsey continues to provide social distant rat inspections upon the request of the occupant of a property.
- Wesley Chin talked about the Youth Commission Coordinator vacancy. There was a strong pool of applicants, narrowed to 3 interviews. The Youth Commission members will interview the final candidates at their next scheduled Youth Commission meeting.
- COVID-19 – Health Department staff continue to provide assistance to Town Departments:
  - Belmont Public Schools – providing data, assist in interpreting guidelines; participation in meeting with teachers unions – many of the concerns identified at these meetings will be addressed by the Facilities Department and the School administration; calls and emails with school nursing staff; review Meet and Greet safety plans; review After School program safety plans.
  - Town Administration – Staff continue to provide weekly updates. The updates are posted on the Towns' website, and sent to people enrolled in the Towns' email notification program. Julie Lemay said the explanation provided by Lindsey Sharp in the most recent update concerning the state and town numbers was great.
  - Recreation Department – Review safety plans; discussions of possible re-opening of the hockey rink.
  - Library – Employees have returned to work at the Library.

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- Council on Aging – Community flu clinic and COVID safety. Steve said he attended the drive-thru flu clinic and said it was a seamless event. Wesley Chin added that the Health Department received a limited amount of State-supplied flu vaccine for under and/or uninsured residents. David Neylon will schedule appointments for those in need.
- Town Center outdoor dining – This has been extended through the end of September. The Select Board may seek Board of Health input if outdoor dining is extended again. Donna David said the outdoor ping pong table is still a concern for her, but she likes the outdoor dining concept generally. It was suggested that Lindsey Sharp go to the center on an upcoming Wednesday afternoon when student traffic seems at its peak. This would provide an opportunity to educate the importance of wearing face coverings. Lindsey could distribute masks, take photos for the Mask-Up Belmont campaign, and provide general information on the benefits of wearing masks.
- Other COVID related concerns.....
  - Seating set-ups in the public way of Common Street area;
  - A temporary dumpster complaint, noting a COVID spread concern;
  - There is no COVID safety guidance available from MDPH for the annual Lions Club Holiday Tree Sale, as well as miniature therapy horses at the Beech Street Center,
  - Lindsey Sharp has joined David Neylon to assist with contact tracing. Lindsey has already addressed 2 cases since last week. She joins Dr. Suzanne Johannot in Belmont's contact tracing efforts.

The Youth and Family Services report was reviewed. Janet Amdur is back to assist the Health Department 20 hours per week.

The Animal Care and Control Officer report was reviewed. Suzanne Trasavage said all bats sent to the State lab for testing have returned negative results. She also said there were two Off Leash Permit incidents reported to her.

The Veterans' Services Officer report was reviewed. Bob Upton is in the office regularly. He is in the process of planning a virtual Veterans' Day celebration to honor our Veteran's.

The Receipts and Financial reports were reviewed. It was noted the increase in receipts was due to the annual food establishment permit renewal, which was delayed due to COVID.

Wesley Chin told the Board members that departments were required to submit a 10-15% budget cut for the FY22 budget, with the recommended cut(s) being a staff position. Board members are concerned by this, especially during a pandemic.

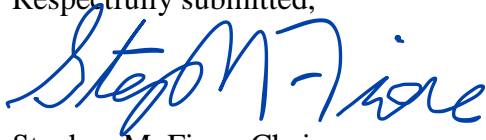
Wes also talked about a number of failed tobacco checks that occurred prior to the COVID-19 shutdown. Board members want the tobacco permit holders of these failed tobacco checks to attend a virtual hearing at the next scheduled Board of Health meeting.

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The next Board of Health meetings are scheduled for:  
October 19, 2020 at 5:00 pm;  
November 23, 2020 at 5:00 pm;  
December 21, 2020 at 5:00 pm.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen M. Fiore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephen M. Fiore, Chair