

DATE: April 28, 2021
TIME: 8:17 AM

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
March 29, 2021**

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 4:32 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 March 29, 2021 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.

Discussion concerning return to in-person board and commission meetings:

- Wesley explained the State does allow in-person meetings. Social distancing, wearing of masks, and sign in sheet for contact tracing purposes are required.
- Maximum indoor capacity is 100 people.
- Donna David is not supportive of a return to in-person meetings at this time. She does not feel the pandemic is over yet, the request can be revisited at the May Board meeting.
- People are known to congregate outside of a meeting room, and there is not enough space in the hallways.
- Julie Lemay said large room space is needed, which may require loud talking. If using a microphone, it would need to be sanitized between uses.
- Need more people vaccinated.
- COVID-19 positive cases are up and people are planning spring vacations which may cause a surge as was seen during the holiday season.

Super Vanak Inc., 271-275 Belmont Street - Variance Request for the Board of Health Regulation - Management of Fats, Oil, Grease. Diana Ekman explained it is not feasible for the establishment to install an exterior grease trap, per Community Development. The establishment will have an interior grease trap cleaned every two months by the vendor they use for their current location in another town.

The Variance Request was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Nomination of Inspector of Animals:

- The Board voted 3-0 to nominate Suzanne Trasavage, Animal Care and Control Officer, as an Inspector of Animals.
- The Board voted 3-0 to nominate Wesley Chin, Health Director, as an Inspector of Animals.
- The Board voted 3-0 to nominate Diana Ekman, Assistant Health Director, as an Inspector of Animals.

The Board voted 3-0 to approve the February 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

The Receipts report was reviewed.

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

- The ongoing housing case will be going to court, no further discussion/comment is allowed.
- Staff are working with Janet Amdur on two new hoarding cases. One of the cases involves items that should be kept inside of a property are kept outside. Health Department staff may not be able to resolve this, as the items are not trash. Staff will do another drive by in a week.
- There has only been one new rat complaint called into the office. This represents a slight decrease in previous years.
- Lindsey Sharp continues to update the online COVID-19 data dashboards, and broadcasts weekly COVID-19 updates for Belmont Media Center. Lindsey asked the Board members to let her know if there is a particular topic they would like highlighted in the weekly update.
- Health Department staff accompanied the Town Clerk to designated school polling places to provide COVID-19 safety guidance tips for the local election.
- Staff continue to assist Belmont Public Schools with COVID-19 guidance.
- Staff met with the Human Resources department to update policies for travel and quarantine of town employees. Also discussed the safety standards that need to be implemented to prepare for reopening the town hall to the public. Donna David recommends keeping the buildings closed to the public. Julie Lemay said the public is still able to get service, sharps disposal for example. Steve Fiore said the Town Clerk's office is appointment only, it worked well. The Board will continue this discussion at the May meeting, since more vaccines will be distributed and spring vacations and holidays will be over.
- Homebound vaccine distribution will begin next week. The Johnson and Johnson vaccine will be used. The list of homebound residents was compiled from telephone requests, completed vaccine surveys from the Town's website, and a list from Springwell.
- We have paused the services of the election workers that were assisting in setting up vaccine clinic appointments. These workers will remain on stand-by for our department in the event we need assistance.
- Staff are working to provide final second dose vaccine to residents who received their first dose through the Health Department. The next clinics will be at Belmont Housing Authority, and Arlington High School. To date more than 1000 vaccine doses have been given to Belmont residents.
- Payson Park Concerts – the event organizer and Health Department staff will work together to ensure a smooth opening this year. The first concert is scheduled for mid-June.
- FAQ's this month – graduation and prom guidance? Circumstances for non-use of face coverings at a private fitness center? State vaccine pre-registration website?
- A resident filed a complaint about unmasked pedestrians in an around Belmont. The complainant detailed many incidents, and requests a person in uniform walk the streets. The Town sends emails blasts to educate and remind residents of the importance of face coverings.
- Wes also shared a story of another Belmont resident who was intentionally coughed on while shopping in a Lexington store because the resident called attention to another shopper who was not wearing a face covering.

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The Youth and Family Services report was reviewed. The Decluttering and Networking groups continue to meet via ZOOM. The meetings are working well for these groups.

The Animal Care and Control report was reviewed. Off leash permit orientations are conducted through ZOOM. Suzanne continues to provide assistance to Watertown and Arlington, as both towns are without an Animal Control Officer. Suzanne earned her National ACO Certification in early March.

The Veterans Services report was reviewed. Due to COVID-19 uncertainty, there will be no Memorial Day parade held. Bob is planning a limited capacity recognition ceremony similar to last year.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2021 at 4:30 pm.

The Meeting adjourned at 5:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna S. David". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Donna S. David, Chair