

DATE: June 7, 2021
TIME: 9:28 AM

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2021**

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 4:36 pm by Donna S. David.

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 April 26, 2021 was held by Remote Access through ZOOM.

Those participating were Donna S. David, R.N., M.N., Chair (following Vote); Julie C. Lemay, MPH, Vice Chair; Adrienne Allen, M.D., M.P.H. Member; Wesley B. Chin, Health Director; Lindsey Sharp, Environmental Health Intern; Maria Reddington, Clerk. Suzanne Trasavage, Animal Care and Control Officer, and David Neylon, RN, REHS, Public Health Nurse, were present for part of the Meeting.

There was no public participation.

Donna David welcomed Dr. Adrienne Allen as a member of the Board of Health.

Reorganization of the Board by a vote of 3-0 is as follows:

Donna S. David, Chair
Julie C. Lemay, Vice Chair
Adrienne Allen, Member

Mr. Bill Trabilcy was welcomed by the Board to discuss Logan Flight Paths:

- Mr. Trabilcy wants to focus on a different objective than what was presented by Myron Kassaraba to the Board of Health at the December public meeting.
- Chronic noise exposure is a "toxic" agent, and as such, requires a response by public health.
- People have stopped filing complaints for various reasons. The pandemic has skewed the equation, there are fewer flights.
- The role of the Board of Health should be to educate and empower the public, as well as advocate with State Representatives and other Health Departments.
- Mr. Trabilcy said he could not find information on the Board of Health webpage. He would like information published on the Board of Health's webpage, as he feels the message is more powerful if the Board posts information for the public to review.
- The discussion will continue at the next Board of Health meeting.

The Board voted 2-0 to approve the March 29, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

The Receipts report was reviewed.

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

- Housing complaints received in the office are lower than prior years. Staff is usually able to resolve issues by phone and/or email.
- The ongoing housing case continues to work with the MA Attorney General's Abandoned Housing Initiative.

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- Calls concerning rat activity have also decreased. Dr. Allen asked where the numbers from the chart are derived, and if the Health department could ask pest control companies for data.
- Lindsey Sharp continues to update the online COVID-19 data dashboards and broadcasts weekly COVID-19 updates for Belmont Media Center. Belmont continues to be in the “green” zone, with a positivity rate of about 1%. Some weeks may realize 10 to 20 new cases, which is consistent with a familial spread of the virus.
- Staff continue to work with Belmont Public School nursing staff and offer guidance for parent groups, graduation, proms, and other school events.
- Staff work with the Town Administrator to provide COVID-19 updates for Select Board meetings. Staff also assisted with drafting a proclamation to remember Belmont residents who passed away from COVID-19.
- There was a brief discussion concerning weekly COVID-19 updates. Staff should consider shorter, weekly messaging, using fresh information, as stale information will discourage readership. Include vaccination rate – this will have to be a live link so as not to lag behind with the State’s reporting schedule.
- The Human Resources department asked if fully vaccinated town employees should be required to wear face coverings in the office. Staff answered that it depended on the number of people in the office, and their ability to maintain a safe distance from one another.
- Staff worked with the Beech Street Center for guidance on a variety of upcoming offerings – outdoor fitness classes and book club meetings, and an annual holiday trip to the White Mountains.
- Outdoor dining will resume on Leonard Street beginning May 3rd. Added to this year’s dining experience will be “public” 2 person seated tables. Staff worked with a resident to develop a plan to place signage advising the user to clean/sanitize following usage. These special tables were a donation from an anonymous donor.
- Some questions received in the office....
Can neighborhoods have a block party? Open block parties are still not allowed.
Can parents bring snacks, such as orange slices, to team games? Yes they can. There is no restriction concerning the type snack, but teammates must practice social distancing when masks are off while eating.
What is the distance students must be apart for afterschool clubs that use classroom space? The answer is 6 feet. The 3 foot distance rule is for the school day only.
- David Neylon talked about contact tracing efforts by Dr. Suzanne Johannet, Heather Nahas, and Lindsey Sharp. COVID funding for their salaries ends on June 30th. We are hopeful funding can continue if contact tracing efforts are needed after June 30th.
- The final second dose of vaccine was given at the April 14th clinic held at the Arlington High School gym. Over a four month period, more than 6,200 residents of Arlington, Belmont and Lexington were vaccinated. The homebound vaccination program will continue this week.

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The Youth and Family Services report was reviewed. The Declutter group continues to meet virtually and is well attended despite COVID.

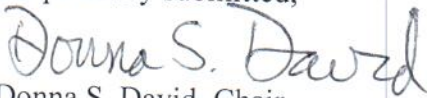
The Animal Care and Control report was reviewed. Suzanne is waiting for Jon Marshall's availability to conduct Off-leash permit orientations through ZOOM. Suzanne continues to provide assistance to Watertown and Arlington. Wes explained the importance of mutual aid to our surrounding towns.

The Veterans Services report was reviewed. Bob continues to plan a Memorial Day recognition ceremony, adhering to COVID safety procedures.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for May 24, 2021 at 4:30 pm.

The Meeting adjourned at 5:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Donna S. David, Chair