

Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
January 27, 2023

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 9:03 am by Julie Lemay.

In keeping with Chapter 20, of the Acts of 2021, the extension of the remote participation portion of Governor Baker's Executive Order from March 12, 2020; - "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law" – The Board of Health Meeting of January 27, 2023 was held by Remote Access through ZOOM.

Those present were Julie C. Lemay, MPH, Chair; Adrienne Allen, M.D., M.P.H., Vice Chair; Donna S. David, R.N., M.N., Member; Wesley Chin, Health Director; Diana Ekman, Assistant Health Director; Lindsey Sharp, Health Agent; Maria Reddington, Clerk.

Julie Lemay reviewed the Marijuana Regulation amendments, which included changes to the age to purchase marijuana to 21 years of age; and to allow Belmont retail establishments delivery of retail marijuana products. Town Counsel and the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards confirmed the proper procedures were followed, and the proposed amendments are prudent.

Public Participation:

- Ms. Kim Edmonds said the retailer definition should remain, as Belmont by-laws are for retail marijuana establishments only and there is potential for ambiguity. She also said the applicant knew about the delivery prohibition at the time they submitted an application. Cambridge is the nearest city/town which allows delivery of retail marijuana, the other surrounding cities/towns allow delivery of medical marijuana.
- Ms. Emma Thurston said delivery is by third party delivery services, Cal Verde is not ready to engage in delivery. Terms were agreed to in 2019, time has changed.
- Ms. Portia Thompson is concerned there is no public participation. She said it should be difficult to purchase marijuana product, it needs regulation. She feels this is not an open dialog by Boards.
- Julie Lemay's response to Ms. Thompson was that in the absence of regulations in the beginning, the Board of Health came in very strong with their original regulations. Current regulations needed to be amended as they are not defensible per Town Counsel.
- Ms. Thompson asked if additional education will be provided to the children, Julie said it would be provided through the schools.
- Dr. Adrienne Allen added the Town will be given funds from the opioid settlement, and hope to hire a Health Educator.
- Lindsey Sharp provided clarification of the phrase *co-location*, as this is not allowed in Belmont. As a result, an additional amendment will be need by striking text after the word *except* through the word *Those* under Section 3, Paragraph 2.
- Motion - to approve the amendments to the Regulations Regarding the Restriction of Adult Use Marijuana as presented, including age; allowing delivery; entry to retail marijuana establishments by persons issued a valid medical marijuana card.
- The Motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

The Meeting adjourned at 9:21 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie C. Lemay, Chair