

DATE: April 26, 2023
TIME: 8:07 AM

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2023

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm 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 March 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; David Neylon, Public Health Nurse; Lindsey Sharp, Health Agent; Suzanne Trasavage, Animal Care & Control Officer; Maria Reddington, Clerk.

There was no Public Participation.

The first Agenda item was meet and greet staff working in conjunction with the Public Health Excellence Grant Program/Metro Public Health Collaborative.

- Staff include Abigail Cook-Korosh, Regional Senior Public Health Specialist; Deidra Clermont, Regional Epidemiologist; Cam Hoffpauir, Shared Services Coordinator.
- Staff are based out of Brookline. Brookline is the fiscal agent.
- A power point presentation was shared. Viewers learned more about Abigail, Deidra, and Cam, as well as why this Grant is focusing on shared services.
- Funding of \$300,000 per year for the next 10 years is through MDPH.
- Shared services may help to strengthen public health services and close gaps.
- Julie Lemay asked if the project will work with other organizations, and if staff need our direction to connect with them. Abigail said the group is still identifying needs, but may reach out in the future for assistance in connecting with other organizations.
- Adrienne Allen asked how long the collaboration will be active. Dependent on needs, up to 10 years. Dr. Allen suggested health education and environmental impacts be projects.
- Abigail, Deidra, and Cam were thanked for joining the meeting. The Board is very pleased the funding is earmarked for so many years.

Nomination of Inspector of Animals:

The Board voted 3-0 to nominate Suzanne Trasavage an Inspector of Animals.

The Board voted 3-0 to nominate Wesley Chin an Inspector of Animals.

The Board voted 3-0 to nominate Diana Ekman an Inspector of Animals.

The Board voted 3-0 to nominate Lindsey Sharp an Inspector of Animals.

Each Inspector will have their Form notarized and submitted to the MA Department of Agricultural Resources, Division of Animal Health. The Division will return confirmation of each Inspector's appointment.

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An application for a sewer connection and abandonment of current subsurface sewerage system at 25 Lantern Road was reviewed.

Board members voted 3-0 to approve the sewer connection.

Lindsey Sharp provided the following COVID data:

- 45 cases in February, 22 cases so far in March.
- The CDC Community Level for Middlesex County is categorized at the low level. The link to check the COVID Community Level is <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html>
- Data updates to the dashboard have been paused.

The Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2023 passed by a vote of 3-0.

The Receipts report was reviewed.

The Director/Assistant Director/Health Agent report was reviewed:

- Housing case update – Staff inspected this property, noting progress has been made. Staff hope to lift the condemnation order within 6 months.
- Rats – Update to Newton Street resident meeting concerning rats in the area – the dumpster concerns are an ongoing issue in this neighborhood, and staff learned from the owner at Sophia's Greek Pantry that the owner confronted a neighbor opening her dumpster and taking photos of the contents. Suggestions include lock the dumpster(s) and/or install a video camera.
- Big Belly trash cans on Leonard Street update – Staff discussed with the DPW Director on March 21st, who remains concerned that his short-staffed department cannot maintain the clean up required of these trash cans. Need to find out neighboring towns success/failure with the cans. A trial of the cans would be on Leonard Street, not in a dog park. Perhaps more dialogue is needed, meet half way with lids on the cans that are already on Leonard Street. Members agreed that we need to be more aggressive about this.
- Rat activity has been observed behind 60 and 66 Leonard Street. Both properties needed to be cleaned up, and arrange to have more frequent pest control. There are totter carts with holes in them that need to be replaced. Rats are burrowing under the asphalt. The Health Department can order businesses to use professional pest control service, but cannot order what they use for treatment.
- Dunkin at Trapelo Road and Church Street filed change of ownership applications.
- Lindsey Sharp talked about social media outreach. March posts included the March vaccine clinic, FDA food safety for fish, CDC reminder to wash your hands after handling pets, the Rabies Clinic, and Veterans' Coffee Hour.
- Two people received "catch-up" boosters at the March 13th vaccine clinic.
- We asked Dr. Allen about COVID-19 for a concerned resident. Dr. Allen said most current cases seen by medical professionals are not severe cases.
- Town Meeting – The meetings will be held in person. The Health Department will make COVID-19 test kits and masks available to any TMM requesting same. A section of the auditorium will be reserved for those who wish to practice social distancing.
- Health Department staff will meet with the Warrant Committee on March 29th at 8:00 am. Board of Health members are encouraged to attend to discuss the FY24 budget.

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- The combined report included a Capacity Assessment Results Toolkit report from the MA Public Health Excellence Grant Program. Board members can call the department with questions. Lindsey Sharp put together an easy to read, color-coded Rat Complaint Data Map. She also included a Communications Survey Results and Analysis report. This data may help get Public Health information to as many people as possible.
- Wes shared a note of appreciation, and thanked Donna for her service to the Board of Health for the past 30 years. Donna was a good mentor and friend to past and present Health Department staff, always making sure that we were doing okay during the pandemic. We all wish her the best as she moves on to her new adventures. Thank you, Donna David!

The Public Health Nurse report was reviewed. The report focused on Opioid Settlement Funds. Approximately \$900 million will be made available in Massachusetts for prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery support. Communities are in the early stages of planning. Julie asked who directs the spending of the money. The Board of Health will be part of a larger group planning effort. Dr. Allen asked what the timeline for distribution is. Wes said the Town submitted an application, but is not sure what the Town will do with the money. Police, Fire, Health, and Schools will have input. The Select Board will make the final decision on how the funds will be used.

The Youth and Family Services report was reviewed. Janet made note that she was partnering with the Fire Department to provide home fire safety assessments. The assessments are available for any age, with a focus on the elderly population.

Animal Care and Control Officer Suzanne Trasavage talked about the court date in June set for K9 “Fanto” King. If there are any violations prior to that date, the Court will oversee it. Also, 26 pets were vaccinated at the rabies clinic held March 4th.

Veterans Services Officer report – none available this month.

Email Rotation:

Julie Lemay will review the emails sent to the Board of Health email address for the month of April.

The next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled April 24, 2023 at 5:00 pm.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie C. Lemay, Chair