

DATE: May 18, 2023
TIME: 11:30 AM

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
April 24, 2023**

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Julie Lemay.

Those present were Julie C. Lemay, MPH, Chair; Adrienne Allen, M.D., M.P.H., Vice Chair; Stephen M. Fiore, Esq., Member; Wesley Chin, Health Director; Diana Ekman, Assistant Health Director; Suzanne Trasavage, Animal Care & Control Officer; Maria Reddington, Clerk.

Reorganization of the Board:

Adrienne Allen presented a proposal to adopt a policy for the annual reorganization of the Board of Health. The Select Board adopted a similar policy whereby the person most recently elected to the Board would serve as the Board member, second year member would serve as Vice Chair, and third year member would serve as Chair. The Chair would have the option to decline the Chair role. Julie Lemay and Steve Fiore suggested the proposed policy be used as a good practice going forward, but not be formally adopted by the Board of Health.

A Motion to appoint Adrienne Allen as Chair passed by a vote of 3-0.

A Motion to appoint Stephen M. Fiore as Vice Chair passed by a vote of 3-0.

Adrienne Allen continued the Meeting Agenda as Chair.

There was no Public Participation.

Butternut Bakehouse, 49-51 Leonard Street – Application for a Variance Request for Management of Fats, Oils, Grease Regulation.

- Staff consulted Belmont's Plumbing Inspector, Peter Maher, who confirmed there is no room for this business to install an exterior grease trap.
- An internal grease trap will be installed. The owner will contract with a grease hauler for scheduled maintenance.
- There was a discussion to process routine requests administratively. Board members agreed this would be a good idea.
- Staff will review the current Management of FOG Regulation and put forth a policy for the Board to review.

The Board voted 3-0 to approve the Application for a Variance of the Management of FOG Regulation from Butternut Bakehouse.

An Application for a Sewer Connection and Abandonment of Current Subsurface Sewerage System at 319 Mill Street was reviewed.

Board members voted 3-0 to approve the Application for Sewer Connection at 319 Mill Street.

The Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of March 27, 2023 passed by a vote of 2-0 (Allen and Lemay).

The Receipts report was reviewed.

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

- Housing case update – Staff inspected this property on April 13th and found little to no improvement from the last inspection. The next court ordered inspection is scheduled for May 2nd.
- A new housing matter may need to be referred to the Attorney General’s office. There was discussion about the exterior condition of the property. Wesley Chin said the Health Department does not have enough staff to assess what qualifies as blight conditions.
- Staff conducted a housing inspection pursuant to a number of concerns reported by a tenant. Staff were made aware that a child(ren) under the age of 6 years live at the property. A lead determination was conducted with a positive lead result. Diana outlined the lead abatement steps the owner will be required to complete in order to comply with the State of MA lead law.
- Rat report – 5 rats have been caught in the electric smart box traps.
- Save Belmont Wildlife Working Group sent an email concerning second generation anticoagulant rodenticides (“SGARs”), and any policy the Board of Health may have about SGAR use in the Town. Adrienne Allen discussed a Board of Health recommendation to encourage less rodenticide use. Members also discussed electric bait box use.
- 127 Somerset Street Title V – Diana said the 5th version of the septic plan submitted was approved on April 12th. The Conservation Commission will need to provide their approval next. Mill River Consulting will assist with the inspections during installation of the septic system.
- Calverde Naturals received an annual Retail Marijuana Permit on April 20th, following pre-inspection of the establishment.
- Social media outreach - April posts included FDA guidance about plants that are toxic for pets, an age friendly adaptation event at the COA, a Belmont Wellness Coalition event, and VSO flyers about flag replacement at veteran grave sites.
- COVID case count for the month of March was 26, with 13 cases reported through April 20th. Middlesex County remains in the low community level category per the CDC.
- A second bivalent booster has been approved/recommended by the FDA and CDC for age 65+, and immunocompromised age 6+. The booster will be offered at vaccine clinics scheduled April 28th, May 1st, May 8th, and May 15th. The next clinic will probably be scheduled for some time in the Fall.
- Public Health Excellence Grant –Additional funds will be used for a more comprehensive MDPH funded Capacity Assessment Results Toolkit (“CART”) report. Shared services staff presented project ideas based on common interest/needs of the 3 communities including rodent control, Narcan accessibility and training, and health education at farmer’s markets.
- MDPH Local Health Internship Program – Belmont’s application was accepted. A meeting to discuss projects for the intern to work on will be scheduled in May.
- Leaf blower bylaw – Health Department staff may be the enforcing authority, which would pose a challenge due to staff size. A suggestion was made to have an online reporting system in place for public self-reporting.

The Public Health Nurse and Disease reports were reviewed. The report focused on expanded FDA recommendations for the COVID bivalent booster vaccine.

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The Youth and Family Services report was reviewed. Julie may have extra shoes to donate for the Golden Shoes Walking campaign. Janet included many great new program ideas in her report - Walk 'n Talk for Stress Management (walking therapy), and Last Wishes, a police document similar to File of Life.

Animal Care and Control Officer report - Suzanne Trasavage continues to attend Court hearings at Cambridge District Court for unpaid citations issued for unlicensed pets.

Veterans Services Officer report – Bob Upton is busy working on flag replacement at the cemeteries, as well as the Memorial Day Parade.

Email Rotation:

Adrienne Allen will review the emails sent to the Board of Health email address through the next Board meeting.

The next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled May 15, 2023 at 5:00 pm.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne Allen, M.D., MPH, Chair