

Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
July 24, 2023

**RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: September 8, 2023  
TIME: 11:03 AM

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm by Adrienne Allen.

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

There was no public participation.

The Meeting Minutes of June 26, 2023 were approved by a vote of 3-0.

The Receipts report was reviewed.

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

- Housing
  - Case 1: This case has been ongoing with the Attorney General's office for more than a year. There has been no progress noted by Health Department staff over the last 3 inspections. The Judge has ordered the lending institution to take control of the locks to the property. This Order may pose an additional challenge for the property owners to continue clean-up of the property.
  - Case 2: The tenant of this property made a request for a comprehensive inspection. Staff learned during the inspection the tenant had been evicted. Health Department staff noted many issues with the home. An Order letter was mailed to the property owner and the tenant.
- Rats – Reports of rat sightings continue to increase, with 17 new reports. The Smartbox Stats Chart shows a significant number of captures at the Leonard St 2 location. The owners of this commercial building have been issued Order letters to mitigate the rodent problem. Lindsey also said there are a couple of hot-spot neighborhoods that staff are working with. Dr. Allen asked if there was a pre-defined measure of success for the Smart boxes. Wes said the boxes are on trial for one year. It may be hard to measure what success is. The company updates the capture number each Monday, which is also the day the boxes are emptied. Dr. Allen would like to keep this discussion about developing a measure on the agenda. Steve Fiore suggested we measure the cost effectiveness by each rat captured in the Smartbox.
- Save Belmont Wildlife – The group has been in contact with Health, DPW, and Facilities staff to reduce rodenticide use. The Group may be interested in introducing a Warrant Article at Town meeting, similar to one introduced in Arlington, which prohibits rodenticide use on Town owned property.
- FOG Variance Request Policy – Diana has reached out to Community Development and DPW to gain information related to the current regulation, and if there are preferred alternatives for

keeping FOG out of the Town sewer system. Health Dept. staff have learned that a group of residents may request a change to the current Board of Health FOG regulation, as well as other Town bylaws and regulations related to the town's sewer systems.

- House of Lavash Update – Diana reports the equipment rollers that were in disrepair have been replaced. Diana thanked the Board for their time in discussing this important issue with the owner at last month's meeting.
- Fee Schedule – Health Department staff are working on updating the food establishment permit fees for ease of understanding and to better reflect the cost of time spent on inspections, permit processing, etc. A copy of the FDA Risk Categorization of Food Establishments chart, and a chart outlining fees charged by surrounding communities, were included for review. There was a brief discussion about the steps staff will take to notify the food establishments about risk categories.
- Leaf Blower Complaints – Staff worked with the IT Department to set up a dedicated phone line, and an online complaint form. The office has received 20 new online complaints since June 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Social Media – The Health Department Facebook page continues to add followers. Posts over the past month were about the Purple Heart Ceremony, Veteran's Monthly Coffee Hour @ the Beech Street Center, and an online survey developed by Gulmeena Khan, MDPH Summer Intern.
- Online Survey Results (presented by Gulmeena Khan) – 182 respondents answered questions relating to residents' perception about Health Department. Gulmeena's final MDPH presentation will include the results in poster form, and will be shared at the conclusion of her internship.
- COVID Updates – The Health Department is in the process of scheduling a number of clinics with Osco Pharmacy.
- PHE Grant – The collaborative is contracting with BME Strategies to develop a strategic plan. BME seeks to interview one Board of Health member from each town. Adrienne Allen and Julie Lemay have volunteered to take part in the interview.

The Public Health Nurse report was reviewed. David Neylon provided a summary of an article written by Katelyn Jetelina, MPH, PhD entitled Lessons I Learned During the Pandemic. Dr. Jetelina became known as Your Local Epidemiologist, sharing newsletters she wrote during the pandemic

The Disease report was reviewed. There was a brief discussion about the uptick in salmonella cases, most of the cases may be related to the Los Amigos Taqueria in Brighton.

The Animal Care and Control Officer report was reviewed. The rescheduled Hearing date for the King's, owner of Fanto, is in October. The King's are in violation of the Board of Health Order issued earlier in the year. Fanto was reported running loose, unleashed and unmuzzled, on July 11<sup>th</sup>. Board of Health members recommend seeking Town Counsel opinion to file a motion for an emergency Hearing. Steve Fiore said the courts are very backed up, but it may be worth a try to file a motion. There will be a Recreation Commission meeting at the end of the month with possible discussion of the Off Leash Permit Program on the Agenda.

The Veterans Services Officer report was reviewed. The Purple Heart Day ceremony will be held Monday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Veterans Memorial at Clay Pit Pond. The time of day is a change from previous years.

Email Rotation:

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

The next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled September 8, 2023 at 9:00 am.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne Allen, M.D., M.P.H., Chair