

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2023

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: October 17, 2023
TIME: 10:22 AM

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 9:01 am 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; Lindsey Sharp, Health Agent; Suzanne Trasavage, Animal Care & Control Officer; Maria Reddington, Clerk

There was no public participation.

The Meeting Minutes of July 24, 2023 were approved by a vote of 3-0.

The Receipts report was reviewed.

The Financial report was reviewed.

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

- Housing
 - Case 1: Health Dept. staff have worked on this case more than four years. Health Department staff notified the MA Attorney General Office's Abandoned Housing Initiative that a housing inspection was complete on August 17th, and made a recommendation that the case be dismissed.
 - Other housing cases this month included incorrect metering, and general unit damage from a water leak.
- Rats
 - Discussion and review of the Smartbox statistics report - Board members discussed the continued increase in the number of captures from the Smartbox located at a commercial building on Leonard Street. Staff have issued Order letter, as well as non-criminal violation notices. The owners of the building have notified staff of their plans for rodent mitigation.
 - Board members asked if an active Smartbox could be retained after the trial period. It was also suggested that a Smartbox be placed at the Grove Street Park area.
- Leaf Blower Complaints – The current system of notifying the property owner of Belmont's new Leaf Blower bylaw seems to be working. There has been a decrease in the number of complaints filed online and called into the office.
- Social Media – Posts shared this month included tips on staying safe in extreme heat, and the MA Department of Public Health Equity Survey.
- COVID Updates – Dr. Allen asked for the MWRA COVID-19 Wastewater Tracking Report to be included in the Board of Health report each month. She also recommends posting a message that residents should wait for the new COVID booster to become available. She cautioned that a disclaimer should be included in the message that the recommendation is not medical advice.

- Wesley Chin told Board members a meeting led by Jennifer Hewitt, Asst. Town Administrator, was held to begin discussions on how the Town can best use the Opioid Settlement Funds. The meeting included the chiefs of the Police and Fire Departments, as well as Health Department staff. Some ideas discussed were distributing free Narcan kits at vaccine clinics and schools; professional lectures on dealing with pain.
- An administrative meeting was held on August 31st with the Town Administrator, Chair of the Select Board, Chairs of the Board of Health and Recreation Commission, Directors of the Health and Recreation Departments, and the Police Chief to discuss the Off-Leash Dog Program. This meeting established that the Board of Health has the authority to end or limit canine access in Belmont parks, and the Recreation Commission can modify rules of the Program, such as limit hours or end the Program. The Recreation Department will meet with a working group of residents for and against the Program, as well as the Animal Care and Control Officer in an attempt to modify Program rules. Board members suggest adding park signage, issuing a colored collar for permitted dogs to wear while in the parks.

The Disease report was reviewed.

The Public Health Nurse report was reviewed. The report shared information about locally acquired malaria cases.

The Animal Care and Control Officer report was reviewed. The rescheduled Hearing date for the King's, owner of Fanto, is October 19th. This Hearing date relates to the King's dispute of the Board of Health Order issued in February 2023. The King's also have unpaid non-criminal violations totaling \$400. A Hearing date for the unpaid violations will be scheduled separately. Pet licensing warning letters will be mailed this month, citations will follow 3 weeks later. Suzanne conducted education training at the Belmont Post Office to help postal workers against dog attacks. Lastly, Suzanne will post a PSA about snap traps, and precautions consumers can take to limit harm to other wildlife.

The Veterans Services Officer report was reviewed.

Email Rotation:

Steve Fiore will review the emails sent to the Board of Health email address.

The next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled October 16, 2023 at 5:00 pm.

The Meeting adjourned at 9:44 am.

Respectfully submitted,

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