

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2023

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: November 21, 2023
TIME: 9:07 AM

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 5:00 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, Asst. Health Director; Lindsey Sharp, Health Agent; Suzanne Trasavage, Animal Care & Control Officer; Maria Reddington, Clerk

There was no public participation.

Mr. Christopher Kairumba, a University of MA Nursing student, was in attendance to observe the public meeting.

The Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2023 were approved by a vote of 3-0.

Diana Ekman talked about the changes made to the Fee Schedule.

- The Fee Schedule was last updated in 2018.
- The Food Service Permit fees are now simplified.
- Fee increases were made to align with staff time.
- Reinspection fees were added to cover cost of staff time. Food establishments will be advised of the department's policy concerning reinspection fees.
- Board members agreed that language relating to consultant fees being the responsibility of the applicant should be added to the end of the Fee Schedule.

The Fee Schedule was approved by a vote of 3-0.

The Receipts 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, and recently received a report that rotten food could be seen through a window.
 - Case 2: Health Dept. staff have referred a second property to the AG's Housing Initiative Program. An order letter was sent by the Attorney General's office.
 - Other housing cases this month included a unit with many complicated violations, and general water leak damage to a unit.
- Rats
 - Lindsey Sharp reports there were 6 new complaints received.
 - Staff will follow up with the Leonard Street commercial building, and status of their efforts to mitigate the rodent problem on their property.
 - There was a suggestion to include other languages in the educational mailing to property owners/tenants.
 - Staff will post the flow chart guidance on the department webpage.

- Leaf Blowers
 - Gas powered blowers are allowed (after September 30th)
 - The office received 65 complaints between June through September. The educational notices sent by HD staff to the property owners resolved further violations of the new bylaw.
 - Only one property did not comply to several notices sent by the Health Department. Staff did not have the ability to observe the violations, and therefore were not able to issue a fine.
- Social Media – Health Department Facebook followers continue to increase. Postings this month included vaccination clinics, monthly Veteran’s coffee hour, and availability of COVID tests through the federal government.
- COVID Updates
 - The North System MWRA COVID-19 Wastewater Tracking Report was included in the report.
 - Approximately 230 people have been vaccinated through two of our scheduled clinics, with many receiving both flu and covid vaccines.
- NEHA/FDA Retail Food Program Grant – HD Staff have applied for a third year of funding, and made a request to have the City of Newton be our mentor. Newton has been a part of the Retail Program Standard for many years, and their expertise will benefit Belmont.
- Opioid Settlement Funds
 - Meeting held September 25th with Asst. Town Administrator, Police Chief, Fire Chief, and Director of BPS Nursing. This meeting was a continued discussion on how to use the funds to address the opioid epidemic locally.
 - Ideas for use of the funds included community CPR and Narcan training, SAM boxes to make Narcan available in public buildings, help to pay for recovery programs for residents in treatment, distribution of a community survey to be created and administered by the Health Department.
 - Board members agreed Narcan in schools is a good idea, as well as education and whole person discussions about trauma, pain and healing.
 - These funds cannot be used to install vape detectors in school restrooms.
- Public Health Excellence (PHE) Grant
 - DPH has officially approved the FY24 budget.
 - PHE will take over Arlington’s proportion of David Neylon’s time in our shared public health nurse agreement. David’s time allocation will remain the same for Belmont (40%), with 60% of his time working for the benefit of the PHE group.
 - The budget approval will also allow the addition of a regional health inspector.

The Disease report was reviewed. Of note, active TB case.

The Public Health Nurse report was reviewed. The report shared information about a new viral respiratory illness tracking dashboard through the MDPH. Dr. Allen said CDC may have good RSV education that can be posted on social media.

The Youth and Family Services report was reviewed. Janet reports she is working with two wonderful student interns.

The Animal Care and Control Officer report was reviewed. Suzanne reports the Recreation Commission appointed a working group of 7 people to work on ideas to improve the off-leash permit program. The next meeting will be held October 23rd. The Group is expected to present an off-leash permit schedule for field use. The Hearing for K9 Fanto King has been postponed to January 2024.

The Veterans Services Officer report was reviewed. Bob outlined the Veteran's Day observation ceremonies planned in Belmont.

Email Rotation:

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

The next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled November 20, 2023 at 5:00 pm.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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