

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2018

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The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Donna S. David, R.N., M.N., Chair.

Those present were Donna S. David, R.N., M.N., Chair; Julie C. Lemay, M.P.H., Vice Chair; David B. Alper, D.P.M., Member; Wesley B. Chin, Health Director; Daniella Wodnicki, Assistant Health Director; Brianne Gray, Environmental Health Intern; John Maguranis, Animal Control Officer (part of the Meeting); Robert Upton, Veterans' Services Officer; Maria Reddington, Clerk.

Also present for part of the Meeting were members of the public, sign in sheet attached.

The Sealer of Weights and Measures position, presently shared with the Town of Arlington, was discussed. The following is a summary of the discussion:

- Arlington has proposed a significant cost share increase to Belmont beginning in fiscal year 2019. Board of Health members do not feel the increase should be approved.
- The Town of Brookline's Sealer of Weights and Measures, Mr. Elmon Hendrickson, is able to provide Sealer services beginning July 1, 2018.
- The Town of Brookline has agreed to allow Mr. Hendrickson use of their equipment to conduct Belmont inspections.
- Administrative duties will be completed by Belmont Health Department staff.

The Board voted 3-0 to contract Sealer of Weights and Measures services with Mr. Elmon Hendrickson, beginning July 1, 2018.

The Receipts report was reviewed, noting Belmont residents are pleased with the fee change (free) for sharps disposal and containers.

The Disease report was reviewed, noting a report of a pertussis case.

The Animal Control Officer's report was reviewed. John reported blue identification tags are being used for dogs enrolled in the 2018 Off Leash Permit program. John will talk to June Howell, Recreation Dept. Program Supervisor, about signage at Payson Park. John shared an incident about serving a quarantine order to a dog owner who did not speak or understand English. Dr. Alper said Mt. Auburn Hospital has language translators for 14 languages.

The Dog Hearing for Dr.. Amy Mayhew, owner of "Bella," was called to order at 5:47 pm. The following is a summary of the Hearing:

- Wesley Chin, Health Director, read the rules of the Hearing, and swore in all speakers wanting to provide testimony.
- John Maguranis, Animal Control Officer, read his prepared report, detailing two dog attack incidents by Bella Mayhew, and his recommendations.

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- Ms. Patricia Guzikowski spoke about the attack on her dog in October 2017 by Bella. Ms. Guzikowski said she had seen Bella before the attack on her dog, but there was never any close contact between Bella and her dog. She also said Bella seems fine when she is on a leash.
- Mr. Steven Buchanan spoke about the attack by Bella on his dog in February. Mr. Buchanan was walking in the neighborhood and heard Dr. Mayhew's children yell that Bella had escaped her home. Mr. Buchanan was able to pick up his dog to escape harm's way, but Bella continued attacking. Mr. Buchanan sustained a bite from Bella. Dr. Mayhew's children were finally able to restrain Bella. He confirmed Bella seems fine when she is on a leash with Dr. Mayhew.
- John Maguranis said Bella is a medium-sized dog, and can be controlled by an adult.
- Ms. Cynthia Buchanan said Bella is walked by children, and she feels Bella is too aggressive for children to walk Bella unsupervised.
- John Maguranis has spent minimal time with Bella. A neighbor reported to John that Bella seems protective of her home, but can play well with other dogs when away from her home.
- Dr. Amy Mayhew began testimony by apologizing for the attacks by Bella. She said she wished the neighbors had come to her directly to talk about the incidents rather than request a Board of Health Hearing.
- Dr. Mayhew said the October 2017 incident may be related to the two dogs living in abutting properties, according to her veterinarian and trainer.
- Dr. Mayhew said the February 2018 incident was a result of a visiting neighbor unknowingly leaving an entry way open which allowed Bella to escape. Since this incident, Bella has been inside the house with a leash on.
- John Maguranis noted that Bella was not licensed at the time of the October 2017 incident, and instructed Dr. Mayhew to obtain a pet license. Bella remains unlicensed in Belmont.
- Dr. Mayhew was told to repair the gate on the fence following the October 2017 incident. As of the date of this Hearing, the gate remained unrepaired.
- Bella's veterinarian, Dr. Binder, provided a recommendation for a professional behavior evaluation. Dr. Mayhew said the appointment is scheduled for March 27, 2018.
- Dr. Mayhew said there are four dogs living across the street from her, and Bella has no problem with those dogs.
- Dr. Mayhew said Bella is four years old and she has owned her since she was a puppy.
- Dr. Alper asked John Maguranis if Bella can be trained. John said he outlined recommendations in his report. He also offered to assist with a plan with the Mayhew family.
- Dr. Alper said John Maguranis must meet with the family, and the gate must be repaired.
- Mr. Steven Buchanan said Dr. Mayhew never came to him to make things right following the attack. Mr. Buchanan said there are 100 dogs in the neighborhood and Bella may be okay with only several of them. He does not feel an animal behaviorist will help Bella. He said Bella snaps and wants to kill, and Bella should be deemed a dangerous dog.
- John Maguranis said to Mr. Buchanan a good behaviorist can help, and he urged everyone to wait for an evaluation to give the family and Bella a chance.

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- Donna David asked John Maguranis if a muzzle order would help. John didn't think the family would place it on and off Bella. John relayed an incident whereby he had to stop by the Mayhew home this past week and doors were open. Bella could have escaped.
- Ms. Patricia Guzikowski told Dr. Mayhew that John Maguranis, Animal Control Officer, initiated this Hearing, not the neighbors.

The following immediate action was ordered by the Board by a vote of 3 to 0:

1. An evaluation by an animal behaviorist and John Maguranis to be completed immediately. John's evaluation must be completed within 24 hours.
2. The gate must be repaired and secured immediately.
3. A report is due to the Board members by Friday, March 30, 2018.
4. The Board's final decision will follow after review of the above actions.

The Hearing adjourned at 6:29 pm.

Discussion and Vote –Regulations Regarding the Restriction of Adult use Marijuana:

- Dr. Alper said there is a citizen's petition for a Town Meeting Article: Opt-out For Marijuana Establishments.
- The Board of Health is not taking a stand by adopting adult use marijuana regulations.
- Board members requested 2 revisions to the draft regulations presented:
 - Remove Section 5.11 which references the number of Permits to be issued.
 - Add the following to Section 6.2, as outlined in 935 CMR 500.110.

The Board voted 3-0 to approve and adopt Regulations Regarding the Restriction of Adult Use Marijuana, following two revisions described above.

Board members welcomed Ms. Lisa Gibalerio and Ms. Stephanie Sunderland of Wayside Multi Service Center.

- Wayside Youth and Family Support Network applied for a federal grant, Drug Free Communities Support Program (DFC), through the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in March 2018 for the Belmont Wellness Coalition's (the Coalition) goals and objectives.
- This is a 5 year grant, with funding of \$125,000 per year.
- Funds will be used to further build the Coalition and reduce substance use among teens.
- The Coalition was formed several months ago. To date, Coalition members include clergy, staff from Health, Police and School departments, BASEC, Star Market and Belmont Savings Bank.
- Coalition meeting discussions include a mini youth risk behavior survey administered to 8th grade students at the Chenery Middle School; Narcan training; vaping usage.
- What time commitment is needed from Health Dept. staff?
- Are Coalition meeting discussion points already being addressed in the schools?

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- Ms. Gibalerio said the Coalition is starting programs, and grant funds will bolster the programs.
- The funds will be used primarily for staffing. Training and speakers will also be paid for from the grant funds.
- Dr. Alper felt funds earmarked for programs was not enough, too much for salaries.
- It's important to know the grant funds are for Belmont.
- Need the schools to commit to participation of the Coalition's activities.

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

The Board voted 3-0 to nominate Daniella Wodnicki an Inspector of Animals.

The Board voted 3-0 to nominate John Maguranis an Inspector of Animals.

The Youth and Family Services report was reviewed. Dr. Alper said there was no information of a boys or girls group included in Janet's report. The school has an intern leading 8th grade girls in a group. Dr. Alper said it is also important to organize a boys group. Daniella will work on finding a male intern to lead 8th grade boys in a group.

The Veterans' Services report was reviewed. Bob Upton was asked which main task he foresees accomplishing if the request to increase VSO hours is approved for FY19. Bob said the number of Belmont veteran's eligible for Chapter 115 veterans' benefits could increase by 50% because there will be more time for outreach and qualifying prospective recipients for benefits they may be entitled to.

The Board voted 3-0 to approve the February 26, 2018 Meeting Minutes as presented.

The Board voted 3-0 to approve the March 5, 2018 Meeting Minutes as presented.

The Board voted 3-0 to approve the March 15, 2018 after adding: ***Donna S. David, R.N., M.S., Board of Health Chair, was absent from the Meeting.***

The Director's report was reviewed with the following topics discussed:

- Belmont High School food inspections are good.
- Butler Elementary School food inspection is a concern because of multiple sewerage back-ups.
- Progress is being made with the active housing cases.
 - Housing Case #1 – Community Development office sent a letter regarding possible illegal unit. The occupant is working with Greater Boston Legal Services relative to the notice to quit he received from the property owner.
 - Housing Case #2 – The matter will be revisited this week.
 - Housing Case #3 – A close family friend is providing weekly updates to Health Dept. staff.

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- Health Dept. staff attended a Mt. Auburn Hospital Advisory Committee Meeting on March 12th. MAH wanted to know the most pressing health concerns facing surrounding communities. MAH said it is likely more funding will be available to municipalities in the future.
- Health Department will meet with Board of Selectmen to discuss the FY19 budget. Wes outlined a number of supplemental budget requests for the Health Department.
- An abutting neighbor of 60-70 Concord Avenue has filed another complaint about the dumpster, alleging the fence surrounding it is not shut. The complainant wants the Health Department to consider prohibiting a dumpster from being kept on the property. Board members agreed the dumpster is fine to remain on the property.
- Wes thanked Dr. Alper for being a great mentor to him since 2011.

The Assistant Director's report was reviewed with the following topics discussed:

- Health Dept. staff attended the Eastern Housing Court Code Enforcement Orientation and Training on March 6th. Staff learned of civil and criminal code enforcement procedures.
- Asbestos removal is scheduled to begin March 26th at 202-204 Beech Street. All violations noted in the Order letter will be satisfied once the asbestos abatement is complete.
- Daniella and Jacklyn Martin, Executive Director of the Belmont Housing Authority were able to obtain compliance from an occupant of a property with unsanitary clutter.
- Health Dept. staff met with Ms. Priya Narashimhan concerning Food Share Tables at Belmont Public Schools. After reviewing guidance documents prepared by MA School Meal Program and the USDA, staff approved share tables throughout the school. The food approved for sharing is limited to whole uncut fruit and unopened pre-packaged food provided by the school meal program.
- The pre-operational inspection for Bellmont Café was satisfactory.
- McLean Hospital's annual bio-safety inspection was conducted by a new inspector, Rebecca Caruso. A summary of the inspection is included in the Asst. Director's report.
- Free CPR/Narcan training was offered to Belmont residents and employees on March 6th as result of a Mt. Auburn Hospital Substance Abuse Micro-Grant. McNeilly EMS provided the training.
- Marijuana draft regulations were compiled by the Assistant Director and Public Health Intern, with input from Board members.

Dr. Alper had a conversation with the Department of Public Works concerning their carry in/carry out policy at Joey's Park and Town Field. This will be a pilot program.

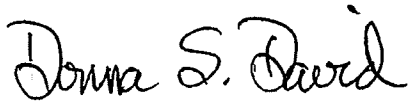
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To conclude the evening's meeting, Dr. Alper and meeting attendees reminisced about Dr. Alper's 30 years of outstanding service as a member of the Belmont Board of Health. We all thanked him for his guidance and support, and everyone agreed he will be missed. Best of luck to Dr. Alper!

The next Board of Health Meeting is April 25, 2018 at 5:30 pm.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna S. David". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donna S. David, Chair