

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2019

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The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Julie C. Lemay, MPH, Chair.

Those present were Julie C. Lemay, MPH, Chair; Donna S. David, R.N., M.N., Vice Chair; Stephen M. Fiore, Esq., Member; Wesley B. Chin, Health Director; Diana Ekman, Assistant Director; Maria Reddington, Clerk; Lindsey Sharp, Environmental Health Intern.

There was no public participation.

Board members welcomed Ms. Elyse Purbaugh, owner of Weesh Bake Shop, 129 Belmont Street. Ms. Purbaugh is sharing the retail space with Vintage Tea and Cake, and presently dedicates part time hours to her bake shop. Board members thanked Ms. Purbaugh for coming to the meeting and reminded her that Health Department staff is available to assist.

Board members welcomed Mr. Rocco Leo of Dunkin', 350 Pleasant Street. Mr. Leo is co-owner of a family operation that owns 12 Dunkin' locations. The store will be open as soon as the certificate of occupancy is issued by Community Development. Board members thanked Mr. Leo for coming to the meeting and reminded him that Health Department staff is available to assist.

The Board voted 3-0 to approve the Town sewer connection at 15 Day School Lane.

The Board voted 3-0 to approve the July 15, 2019 Meeting Minutes with the following change to Page 1:

Add *Ms. Eames said* to the fifth and sixth bullet point.

The Massachusetts Association of Health Boards Annual Conference is scheduled November 2 and November 16. Ms. Lemay and Ms. David can attend November 2nd. Mr. Fiore can attend November 16th.

The Receipts report was reviewed, noting an increase in receipts due to the collection of Sealer of Weights and Measures fees.

The Financial report was reviewed.

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

- Housing cases update:
 - Case #1 – The neighbor who has been assisting this occupant has moved, the occupant may now consider accepting additional services. The occupant may begin to participate in activities offered by the Beech Street Center.
 - Case #2 – The August re-inspection was cancelled. Staff is concerned the occupant may be living in the home. Ms. Lemay told staff to direct Springwell to resolve this issue prior to the arrival of cold weather.

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- Case #3 – Significant progress has been made but more needs to be done. The occupant has agreed to a re-inspection.
- Case #4 – Outdoor clean up continues, noticeable improvement.
- The Star K Gas Sealer of Weights and Measures matter was discussed. The owner of the establishment requested reimbursement for costs associated with the order by Mr. Elmon Hendrickson, Belmont's Sealer of Weights and Measures, to take one gas pump offline. The owner asserts that their service technician from Dependable Petroleum Service said the deviation noted by Mr. Hendrickson was not as significant as he recorded at the routine inspection. Mr. Hendrickson took his measuring devices to the MA Division of Standards State Metrology Laboratory in Needham to have his provers re-tested (Note: devices must be certified by the state every 5 years. Mr. Hendrickson's provers were certified by the state in 2018.). The state lab verified that the provers were accurate. Board members support the state lab results and Mr. Hendrickson's training. The request to reimburse the owner is denied.
- Youth Commission news – Tiana Watson coordinated a successful ice cream social with the Belmont Housing Authority on July 29th with 45 participants attending. A \$5000 mini grant from Mt. Auburn Hospital was awarded to the Youth Commission. The funds will be used to raise awareness about mental health and stress in Belmont youth.
- The next topic was nuisance odors and visible mists emitting from Purecoat North at 39 Hittinger Street. Health Department staff summarized a telephone call they had with Ms. Susan Ruch, Deputy Regional Director, Bureau of Air and Waste at MA DEP, noting their involvement with Purecoat. Board members want Health Department staff to continue contact with Mr. Thurston, Mr. Mahoney and DEP, and provide periodic reports to Mr. Thurston.
- Health department staff received a number of neighbor complaints concerning wildlife entering a hole in the roof and the general untidiness of a property. Janet Amdur will assist with this new housing case.
- Rats – Lindsey Sharp reports the rat complaints are similar in number to last summer. The high school building area has seen the most increase in rat sightings this year. 2017 was the worst year for rat complaints.
- The budget process and dates to complete same will be earlier this year to better determine if an operating override request will be necessary.

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

- There was a fire in the basement at Vintage Tea & Cake / Weesh Bake Shop. The owners were instructed to clean surfaces and utensils in the food preparation area, and to air out the establishment. They were allowed to reopen the next day.
- Health Department staff and contract food inspector, Kylee Sullivan, will offer an instructional opportunity to Belmont food establishments on September 23 and September 30. The instruction will highlight the 2013 FDA Food Code adopted by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health with amendments as the 105 CMR 590: State Sanitary Code, Chapter 10 – Minimum Sanitation Standards for Food Establishments.

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- Diana presented details for the Septic to Sewer System Application changes she has recommended. The new application process will clarify the order of how systems need to be connected and abandoned.
- Housing cases update:
 - Case #1 – Lead hazard case, the de-leading is complete. The Housing Court case is closed. All items listed in the Order are almost complete.
 - Case #2 – The last re-inspection was in July. The stairs and stove are clear. The dining area is the goal for the September inspection.
- Update to the Belmont Housing Authority (the “BHA”) public hearing held in July: The BHA relocated the occupant to another unit. Professional cleaning and repair of the kitchen cabinet door latches will be done. BHA will let us know when remediation of the occupant’s unit is complete.
- Belmont Wellness Coalition meeting – members asked if the Town would adopt rules prohibiting smoking/vaping in all public parks. Staff research found the Town has a bylaw in place at §60-105, prohibiting the use of tobacco products in public spaces. MGL Chapter 270, Section 6 includes e-cigarettes as part of their definition of tobacco products. Requests for bylaw changes should be by citizen petition at Town Meeting.

The Food Inspection report was reviewed, noting El Centro was last inspected in June.

The Nurse/Disease reports were reviewed. David Neylon reported on EEE. Health Dept. staff have received several phone calls asking if outdoor activities should be canceled. Belmont’s EEE threat remains at low risk. A fact sheet was sent to schools, callers, posted on the website. Donna David said to be sure this information is passed on to private schools, too.


The Animal Control Officer report was reviewed, noting the increased number of bat calls.

The Veterans’ Services report was reviewed. The Purple Heart ceremony was a success. The monthly coffee hour at the Beech Street Center continues to be popular.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2019 at 5:30 pm.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Julie Lemay, Chair