

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
June 21, 2021

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 4:31 pm by Donna S. David.

In keeping with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law" – The Board of Health Meeting of June 21, 2021 was held by Remote Access through ZOOM.

Those participating were Donna S. David, R.N., M.N., Chair; Julie C. Lemay, MPH, Vice Chair; Adrienne Allen, M.D., M.P.H., Member; Wesley B. Chin, Health Director; Diana Ekman, Assistant Health Director; Maria Reddington, Clerk.

Public Participation: Mr. Phil Thayer spoke to the Board about the COVID variant, and asked if the Board of Health had a position concerning it. Donna David told Mr. Thayer all COVID-19 matters are being monitored, and per the Governor's updated guidance, public meetings can be held remotely through April 2022.

Michael Patti, Youth Commission Coordinator provided the following update to the Board:

- Michael provided a summary of the most popular programs, including the cookie decorating contest and outdoor scavenger hunt.
- Michael will likely leave his position in July to begin his permanent career. Board members thanked Michael and wished him success.
- There are a number of committee positions that will be opening soon due to expired terms.
- Michael is working on a summary guide for the Youth Commission Coordinator position, and he will provide the final copy to Wes.

The next agenda item concerns Marijuana Establishment Permit fees:

- Diana said an establishment is in the process of applying for occupancy with the Town, and asked the Health Department for an Application.
- A comparison of fees charged by surrounding towns was analyzed.

The Board voted 3-0 the following fee schedule for Marijuana Establishments:

PLAN REVIEW	\$500.
APPLICATION FOR A PERMIT (RENEWAL)	\$1000.

The Board voted 3-0 to approve the May 24, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

The Receipts report was reviewed.

The Director/Assistant Director/Public Health Nurse/Environmental Health Agent report was reviewed with the following discussed:

- Housing complaints/concerns have been quiet this month. There is no update on the ongoing housing matter headed up by the MA Attorney General's Abandoned Housing Initiative, as the lead attorney has been away from the office.
- There has been a slight uptick in the number of rat concerns filed with the department.
- COVID-19 update:

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- Current report for Belmont - COVID cases are down, vaccination rates are up.
- Dashboards are updated
- The Belmont Media Center weekly video update by Lindsey has been paused.
- School is finished for the year. The Health Department appreciates the outstanding effort by parents, students, and school staff in keeping schools as safe as possible during this challenging school year.
- Will face coverings be required for the start of the 2021-2022 school year? At this time DESE is not recommending this.
- Most summer camps are requiring the use of face coverings, although it is not a requirement by the State.
- Dr. Allen wants an agenda item added to the July agenda to discuss face covering requirements for the next school year.

The Youth and Family Services report was reviewed. Janet Amdur is applying for a grant through MassHousing (Lee Mannillo Grant) for funds to assist with in home clutter coaching. The application due date is August 1st. Wes said Janet's part time summer hours are limited to the Beech Street Center.

The Animal Care and Control report was reviewed. Suzanne Trasavage provided a brief update of last month's dog hearing – the owner is still waiting for a behaviorist evaluation appointment. Suzanne has seen the dog walking in the neighborhood, wearing an appropriate muzzle.

The Veterans Services report was reviewed. Bob Upton reports the Memorial Day services were a success. The next Veteran event will be the recognition of Purple Heart Day. The coffee hour program has resumed, outdoors at the Beech Street Center.

Board of Health orientation:

- Attendance at Massachusetts Association of Health Boards Certificate Program in the Fall.
- Regulation procedures – cradle to grave. How to manage a new conflict, such as chickens/bees.
- Budget – what is the cycle? How does the Board of Health advocate for the Health Department budget? Warrant committee meetings are a good time for BOH members to advocate for the budget.
- Annual state of the health department – published annually in the Town's annual report.
- Rotation of Chair, Vice Chair, Member? Typically annually, following the town election.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for July 26, 2021 at 4:30 pm.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna S. David, Chair