

DATE: July 15, 2022
TIME: 8:19 AM

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2022

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 4:34 pm by Julie Lemay.

In keeping with Chapter 20, of the Acts of 2021, the extension of the remote participation portion of Governor Baker's Executive Order from March 12, 2020; - "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law" – The Board of Health Meeting of June 6, 2022 was held by Remote Access through ZOOM.

Those present were Julie C. Lemay, MPH, Chair; Adrienne Allen, M.D., M.P.H., Vice Chair; Donna S. David, R.N., M.N., Member; Wesley B. Chin, Health Director; Diana Ekman, Assistant Health Director; Lindsey Sharp, Health Agent; Suzanne Trasavage, Animal Care and Control Officer; Maria Reddington, Clerk.

David Neylon, RN, REHS, Public Health Nurse, was present for part of the Meeting.

There was no public participation.

Julie Lemay provided highlights of attendance at the Annual MAHB Conference:

- Julie attended the May 14th Conference.
- It was a "back to basics" Conference.
- Massachusetts trend is to have a 5-member Board of Health.
- A member resignation must be filed with the Town Clerk. The Board of Health must provide notice of the vacancy to the Select Board and the community.
- Public records laws were discussed. Julie said it is good to have the Board of Health email address to fulfill Health Department/Board of Health public information requests.
- Social media presence was discussed, cautioning that if 2 or more members belong to the same group, it may be considered a violation of the Open Meeting Law if the two members post about a Board of Health matter.
- Presenters talked about Public Health Grant opportunities for training/job sharing.

Board members welcomed Heather Nahas and Dr. Suzanne Johannet to the meeting.

- Heather and Dr. Johannet were COVID-19 Contact Tracers for the Town of Belmont.
- David Neylon thanked Heather and Dr. Johannet for their steadfast help throughout the pandemic. David said they provided a tremendous service to the residents, and volunteered their time and talent at vaccine clinics.
- Heather said it was very interesting work, and appreciated how everyone worked as a team and were always accessible.
- Dr. Johannet was glad to help make a difference in Belmont.
- Thank you to Heather and Dr. Johannet for their dedication over the past 2 years.

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2022

Lindsey Sharp provided a COVID-19 data review:

- Lindsey reports the cases are on the downtrend from April (317 cases) and May (485 cases).
- The majority of cases are age 34 to 47 years old, and the majority have been vaccinated and boosted.
- Hospitalizations and cases are down.
- Dr. Allen suggested a metric based on the percentage of the student body who is sick, perhaps 20% would require a mask mandate. She encourages prompt action.
- Numbers are skewed, under reported.
- This should be addressed in early August.
- Wesley Chin said he would float the idea to Beth Rumley.
- Julie said she could talk to Meg Moriarty.
- All-ages vaccine clinics will be offered throughout the summer months.

Donna David provided highlights of attendance at the Annual MAHB Conference:

- Donna attended the May 14th Conference.
- Donna also learned that of the 361 Massachusetts municipalities, the trend is for a Board of Health to have 5 members.
- Public record laws: Board matters written on a napkin or a post it note, or sent by text message are considered public record and would need to be included in a response for a public information request.
- There are a number of resources to ask Open Meeting Law questions to: a MA Health Board attorney of the day, Town counsel, Cheryl Sbarra or Mike Hugo.
- The Chair of the Board can change an agenda, even a few hours before a scheduled meeting.
- Attendance of this Conference may require mandatory attendance in the future.

The Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 9, 2022 passed by a vote of 3-0.

The Receipts report was reviewed.

The Director, Assistant Director, Public Health Nurse and Public Health Agent report was reviewed.

- The Attorney General's office is moving forward to serve the mortgage company notice of the pending receivership.
- Rats – the Recreation department has reported a significant increase in the amount of trash in parks/public spaces. The Department of Public Works added a weekend pick up, but this may not be enough to deter the increase in rodent activity.
- Unity Avenue Mosquito Complaint – A resident reports their neighbor keeps uncovered trash cans on their property, which collect rainwater and contribute to the excess mosquito population in the neighborhood. The trash cans are used by the neighbor for storing equipment for an asbestos remediation company. The neighbor is issued a Home Occupant Permit from the

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2022

Community Development office. Health Department staff have asked Community Development to help enforce Paragraph D of the license application which prohibits a number of offensive acts.

- Health Department staff also remind residents that disturbing water, at least weekly, that is collecting in a bird bath or planter will help deter mosquito breeding.
- Social media – The Health Department has over 800 followers. Some of the recent posts include vaccine clinics, extreme heat safety tips, and a flyer from our summer intern, Ava, about air pollution, air quality and asthma.
- Lindsey Sharp has been supervising summer intern Ava M. by including her in local webinars and training, as well as overseeing social media posts created by Ava.
- COVID-19 Test Kits – The Town will receive about 4700 kits from the State. The kits will be available at various public places throughout Town.
- The Weekly COVID-19 update will be discontinued. Readers will be redirected to the Health Department's social media pages for updated information.
- Monkeypox update – David Neylon provided reading materials for the Board.

The Youth and Family Services report was reviewed. Janet's work-year concludes at the end of this month, which means the Health Department will not have social work services for the summer months.

The Animal Care and Control report was reviewed. Suzanne received a request from the director of a baseball tournament who asked the off-leash permit program be temporarily suspended at the Grove Street playground during a weekend tournament in mid-June. Julie Lemay suggested an email blast be sent to all holders of an off-leash permit to remind them of the rules, especially when the playground is being used by athletic/other groups. Dr. Allen's experience has been there are more unleashed than leashed dogs during a game. Also post the reminder on social media.

There was a brief discussion about the Veterans' Services Officer position being moved to the Town Administration office. Board members feel this is a social service and the position should remain in the Health Department.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2022 at 4:30 pm.

The Meeting adjourned at 5:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie C. Lemay, Chair