

DATE: January 24, 2023
TIME: 9:02 AM

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2022

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 5:01 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 December 19, 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 Chin, Health Director; Lindsey Sharp, Health Agent; Suzanne Trasavage, Animal Care & Control Officer; Maria Reddington, Clerk.

There was no public participation.

Nomination of Lindsey Sharp as an Inspector of Animals through the MA Department of Agricultural Resources Animal Health Division Program - The Nomination will be sent to Michael Cahill, Director of MDAR Animal Health Division, for final approval.

Board members voted 3-0 to nominate Lindsey Sharp as an Inspector of Animals.

Review Application for a sewer connection and abandonment of current subsurface sewerage system at 79 Country Club Lane.

Board members voted 3-0 to approve the sewer connection.

Lindsey Sharp provided the following COVID data:

- 69 cases in November, 30 cases so far in December.
- The CDC Community Level for Middlesex County is categorized at the medium level. The link to check the COVID Community Level is <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html>
- Lindsey also reported there have been 26 confirmed cases of influenza.
- Dr. Allen said the flu is severe, and asked that Health Department staff post a PSA reminder about the flu vaccine.
- Dr. Allen also said posting a PSA concerning alcohol consumption would be a good reminder during the holiday season.
- Julie asked about the wastewater data reports, and if there are surrounding cities/towns participating in city/town testing. Lindsey thought the City of Boston was participating, but cautioned the fee for this service is expensive and not being considered by Belmont at this time.

The Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of November 21, 2022 passed by a vote of 3-0.

The Receipts Reports was reviewed.

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The Director/Assistant Director/Public Health Nurse/Health Agent report was reviewed:

- Update to ongoing housing case – The bank is making repairs to the property (roof repair). This case has been active in the Health Department for over four years.
- Staff will meet with Modern Pest Control today. There are 11 communities using their electronic traps for rodent control. The cost is \$100 per month to maintain. The traps can be set up in sewers. Staff will present a summary of the meeting to Town Administrator Patrice Garvin.
 - Julie asked how many traps would need to be set in an area with rodent concerns. The technicians would have to assess this.
 - Donna David heard surrounding towns did not report great success with the electronic traps.
 - Julie Lemay said it's an expensive project but may benefit the raptor population which may result in better rodent control.
- Diana Ekman talked about streamlining the food permit fee schedule. Staff are working with Mojin to assess risk determination for each establishment, and base the fee on the risk category.
 - Donna David likes a risk category fee schedule, it makes sense to use this approach.
 - Dr. Allen asked how many food establishments are there to inspect. Diana said about 80 establishments, with a minimum requirement to inspect each establishment twice per year. Diana also added that some establishments require a reinspection.
 - Staff will provide a copy of the food inspection report in next month's meeting packet.
- Academic Public Health Corps – APHC has sent the social media materials and staff are reviewing the topics received. Lindsey will post the materials relative to alcohol consumption during the holidays.
- Lindsey Sharp developed a COVID-19 vaccine flow chart to help ease confusion for people seeking booster doses. The next vaccine clinics (COVID and Flu) are scheduled for December 29th and January 12th.
- Adult use marijuana regulations – Questions have been brought to our attention relating to signage and enforcement of the minimum age of 25. Belmont's current regulation was compared to surrounding city/town regulations. Town Counsel has been contacted for legal guidance.
 - Julie Lemay asked when the new establishment will open. Wesley Chin said they expect to open the beginning of 2023.
 - Dr. Allen would like a marijuana regulation review as an agenda item, the regulation needs to be loosened.
- Public Health Excellence Grant Update – 3 positions need to be filled, expected start date is mid-January. Dr. Allen asked who will decide what projects will be done. Wes said there needs to be a written Agreement between the 3 communities. A draft mission statement will be reviewed December 21st. Health Department will need input from the Board of Health as to what the needs are. Dr. Allen suggested conducting an air quality study during warmer months.
- FY24 Budget Meeting – Staff met with the Select Board. The meeting was straightforward and the budget submitted was level funded. The next budget meeting will be with the Warrant Committee.

The Youth and Family Services report was reviewed. Janet is working on a very difficult case concerning an eviction.

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The Animal Care and Control report was reviewed. Suzanne Trasavage reports she is completing the Keeping of Animals inspections as required by MDAR Division of Animal Health. There was another set of signs posted at Rock Meadow. Suzanne made a donation (\$1,194.91) to the New England Wildlife Center in South Weymouth. The funds were the balance remaining from a donation made by two Belmont residents in 2007. Julie Lemay said to add an agenda item in February to discuss geese mitigation efforts.

The Veteran's Services Report was reviewed.

There has been no response from DEP concerning a Purecoat North update. Staff will reach out again after the new year. If there is no response, staff will reach out to Senator Brownsberger's office. Board of Health members would like an update at the next meeting.

Julie Lemay will review the emails sent to the Board of Health email address this month.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2023 at 5:00 pm.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie C. Lemay, Chair