



MEETING MINUTES BOARD OF HEALTH

January 10, 2024

140 Worcester Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

In accordance with the provisions of MGL 30A §§ 18-25

Date/Time/Location of Meeting:

1.10.2024/6:00pm/Room 120 Town Offices Land Use Meeting Room

Members Present:

John Sullivan, Robert Barrell, Tracey Gagnon, Thomas Mullins, Christopher Whelan

Members Absent:

None

Other Attendees:

Soloe Dennis, Director of Public Health CMRPHA, Devon Thornton, Environmental Health Coordinator, Amelia Houghton, Public Health Nurse, Karina Scott, Shared Services Coordinator

Call to Order

Chair Sullivan called the West Boylston Board of Health meeting of Wednesday, January 10, 2024 to order at 6:00pm. All boards members were present.

Introduction of Board of Health Administrative Assistant – Maureen Adema

Chair Sullivan informed the members that Maureen Adema has been hired as the Board's Administrative Assistant. Dr. Sullivan asked Ms. Adema to introduce herself. Ms. Adema told the informed the Board of her municipal experience and express her pleasure to be working in West Boylston.

Review and sign Board of Health Minutes

Chair Sullivan stated there are no minutes to approve. Maureen will prepare minutes via the recording for the November 1, 2023 meeting and will research status of other missing minutes from the website.

Violation – Wachusett Farms

Soloe Dennis, Director of Public Health CMRHA updated the Board on the Wachusett Farms violation. The Board received related documents prior to the meeting.

On December 21, 2023 the Worcester Division of Public Health conducted a tobacco retail inspection at Wachusett Farms. Cherry Tangri, Tobacco Inspector WDPH found the store in violation of the West Boylston Board of Health Restricting the sale of Tobacco Products regarding cigar sales and Hemp Wraps. The store owner was fined. He stated he understood the violation and would comply with ordered corrective actions.

Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance Updates

Local and Regional Updates

Karin Scott, Shared Services Coordinator shared a training opportunity offer to the Alliance Towns on Equity, Inclusion and Racial Training. The training is offered both in person and remote. The first session is January 17, 2024 in person in the city of Worcester. Ms. Scott has emailed the registration link to all Town employees and will send a second/follow up email at the end of the week. Ms. Scott communicated the training is paid for by a grant.

Ms. Scott informed the Board of the Community Leader's Coffee scheduled for February 8, 2024 at 10am at the First Congregational Church of West Boylston.

Vaccine Clinic Updates and Nursing Updates

Amelia Houghton, Public Health Nurse stated there were no clinics held in the month of December. There is research being done to see if there is a need for flu vaccines for Seniors and/or uninsured individuals. Ms. Houghton informed the board that starting in February, clinics will be held the first Tuesday of the month in February, April, May, June and July and the third Tuesday in March. The clinics will be for Life Cards, 9am to 10am and Blood Pressure 10am to 11am.

Ms. Houghton also communicated that she is working with the pharmacist who worked the October clinic to have more regular clinics. She would like to have a shingles clinic. She is in communicate with the Director of the Senior Center regarding health clinics.

Ms. Houghton communicated that the Norwood Nursing Center has a small cluster of COVID cases. She continued stating that the center is working with the State and providing reports to the Alliance.

Dr. Sullivan stated the risk for COVID is increasing, along with the flu and RSV in area. UMASS has 111 in patients and 30 employees out with COVID, flu or RSV. He said the accuracy of COVID numbers is compromised because of people taking home tests. He continued stating the best indicator of risk level is the testing of bio-waste. The current testing indicates West Boylston is the high range for respiratory issues, flu and COVID.

Office Report – Devon Thornton, West Boylston Health Inspector

- ***Inspections***
12 food inspections, 3 other
- ***Food Permits***
1 food permit issued, a temporary in the school yard.
- ***Complaints***
The Board of Health received 5 complaints in the past month.
The complaints were from CVS, Subway Restaurant, Water damage in a second-floor apartment, Bed Bugs at the Wellington Community Center. All complaints have been addressed and managed.
- ***Trash Hauling Permits and Septic Permits***
Mr. Thornton asked the Board if there was a vote or any other action required of the Board regarding Trash Hauling Permits and Septic Permits. He stated the office has been receiving applications for these kinds of permits.

Mr. Barrell said the Board does not take a vote or any action on Trash Hauling Permits or Septic Permits. He continued stating the fees are set and the office can issue these permits when payment is received.

COVID Test Give Away Update

Residents have been taking advantage of the COVID test give away. The supply has been close depleted. The tests are available at the Board of Health office and the Tax Collectors' office.

Dr. Sullivan asked if there was financial report from the office available. Maureen stated training on the Board of Health invoices, turnovers and fee collection has not yet occurred and hoped by the next meeting the training will be complete. Mr. Thornton communicated that after all permits are processed the totals will be provide to the Board.

Review – Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Application lot 1 Century Drive

Chair Sullivan communicated that the Board of Health has no comment or action on the ZBA application for lot 1 Century Drive. This communication will be shared with the ZBA Administrator

Bob Barrell reported that he inspected the supply trailer, earlier today. He made the inspection due to the rain and flooding conditions in the area and reports of other regional trailers being compromised. He stated the trailer is dry, having no concerns.

Next meeting

February 21, 2024 – emails will be sent to members for confirmation.

Adjournment

Christopher Whelan made a motion to adjourn at 6:23pm. Tracey Gagnon seconded. No discussion.

Motion carried 5 to 0

Signatures

John Sullivan, MD, Chair

Christopher Whelan, MEd

Tracy Gagnon, MEd, Vice Chair

Thomas F. Mullins, MD

Robert J. Barrell, MPA