



## **Board of Health Town of Southwick**

454 College Highway, Southwick, MA 01077  
Phone: (413) 569-1212 Fax (413) 569-5284

December 16, 2021 Minutes

Hybrid meeting commenced at 7:00 p.m., but technical difficulties were discovered with the Zoom connection. The meeting was restarted at 7:18 p.m.

In attendance: Thomas FitzGerald, Interim Health Director  
Susan Brzoska, Jean Nilsson, Mikenzie Cain

There was no public comment.

Minutes from the previous meeting were not available because the BOH does not have a secretary. Previous meetings were recorded and can be viewed on the Town web site. Jessica is showing Meaghan how to process the checks submitted to the BOH for licenses and permits. Mr. FitzGerald asked Jessica to write a standard operating procedure for the BOH secretarial duties.

### **Health Director's housing investigations:**

- Housing complaint at 810 College Highway – people living in a trailer in the back yard.
- Housing inspection at 246 Feeding Hills Road – junk in house. The ACO present at the inspection.
- Housing complaint at 23 Feeding Hills Road – mattress on property.
- Housing complaint at 138 Feeding Hills Road – material in yard. Determined not to be a health hazard.
- Housing complaint 52 Lakeview Street – materials on property, junk vehicle. Building Inspector notified.
- Housing complaint at 71 Kline Road – trailer on vacant property.

### **Health Director's percolation tests:**

- 447 North Loomis Street - new
- Lot 10 Silver Grass - new
- Lot 36 Silver Grass - new
- 18 Shagbark – repair

### **Health Director's final septic system inspections**

- 64 Buckingham Drive – repair
- 12 Patriots Way – repair
- Lot 10 Mort Vining Hill Road – new
- Lot 11 Mort Vining Hill Road – new
- 51 Tannery Road – repair
- 17 Gable View – new

Septic system sign off for 260 Granville Road

Certificate of Occupancy for 260 Granville Road

A Body Art Practitioner submitted an application for approval.

4 Crescent Circle requests temporary housing in a trailer due to a house fire.

Red Riding Hood's Basket will have new owners with a name change to Red's Café.

The Board discussed Mr. FitzGerald's revised Health Director's posting. The posting will include a salary range of \$60,000 - \$70,000 based on the applicant's qualifications and experience. If the applicant does not have all the desired certifications, they must be eligible for these certifications and obtain them within a specified time period.

The Board decided to postpone the interview with the one applicant for the Health Director's position, until the job vacancy is reposted.

Mr. FitzGerald received a copy of the Health Nurse's contract and has been in contact with Tammy Spencer. The State is ready to disperse the grant money. A Zoom meeting will be scheduled with all the towns involved. The BOH received a resume from a nurse seeking a position.

Valerie Byrd reported 134 positive Covid cases in the past 15 days. There were 52 breakthrough cases: 13 had Moderna, 33 had Pfizer, 6 had Johnson & Johnson. The remaining 82 cases were unvaccinated. The average unvaccinated age range was 20-45 years. Many were families.

The MDPH established new contact tracing guidelines. Cases are to be prioritized as to shelters, nursing facilities, clusters, etc. The onus of contacting close contacts is now on the index case. Close contacts do not have to be entered into MAVEN. If a case is missed and is a couple days old, the case does not have to be investigated. If there are multiple cases from the same household, only one call is sufficient.

The Board discussed a mask mandate for the Town. The Board wants to keep our town residents safe, but a mask mandate would be difficult to enforce. A mask mandate was discussed for those areas of the Town in which it could be enforced, such as in the Town Hall and for Town employees when not 6 feet apart from one another. Ms. Brzoska made a motion, but there was no second.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2022 at 6 p.m.  
Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Approved by:

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Susan Brzoska

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Jean Nilsson

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Mikenzie Cain

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Thomas FitzGerald, Health Director