



MINUTES BOARD OF HEALTH May 19, 2022

Opening: The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Health opened at 6:00 pm. The following members were in attendance:

Alex White - Health Director
Thomas FitzGerald- Health Agent
Sue Brzoska - Chairperson
Mikenzie Cain- Vice Chairman

Sue Brzoska motioned to accept the minutes of May 5th, 2022, with the corrections. Mikenzie Cain seconded the motion. The vote of the Board was unanimous in favor.

Roll call vote:

Sue Brzoska – Yes
Mikenzie Cain - Yes

Hybrid Meetings will be in place until July 1, 2022, or maybe extended by the State Legislator.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & ATTENDANCE

Peter Currier- No comment
Valerie Bird- Current Covid Numbers

Infectious Disease Report

Valerie Bird– Covid numbers

- March- 34 confirmed Covid cases
- April- 78 confirmed Covid cases
- May 1st- May 19th, 82 confirmed Covid cases. 15 of the 82 cases were not vaccinated. 23 of the 82 people over the age of 60 and 6 out of the 82 were under the age of 18.
- 4 Hepatitis C cases in the last 6 weeks none were pediatric
- 4 Influenza Cases
- 4 Tick-borne illness cases. 1 Lyme disease case, 1 Rocky Mountain spotted fever, 2 cases of *Anaplasmosis*
- 1 case of *Streptococcus* Group a (bacterial pathogen causing cellulitis and sepsis)

Alex White to follow up with the Southwick School Nurse on covid numbers and other related topics. Alex White to also make sure that the Town page is up to date for guidance about isolation and quarantine measures regarding Covid-19.

Alex White's Report & Sign-offs

- SO: 2 Tall Pines
- SO: 4 Pinnacle Estates
- SO: 20 Gable View
- PT: 4 Stage Coach Rd
- PT: 283 College Highway
- PT: 3 Dewitt Circle
- FI: 68 Congamond Rd
- COC: 11 Falmouth
- COC: 2 Birchwood Dr
- HI: 33 Grove Street
- HI: 41 Fernwood Rd

KEY:

PT = Soils Suitability Test (AKA perc test)

FI = Final Inspection

SO = Sign Off

HC/HI = Housing Complaint/Housing Inspection

FSI = Food Service Inspection

COC = Certificate of Compliance

Magnolia Estates- No new information on wetlands. Mr.FitzGerald is in contact with the Conservation Commission on their modification plans.

Booster Clinic: Senior Center - 67 people signed up for the booster clinic. 65 people attended and were vaccinated. The Board spoke briefly on possibly having an additional Booster Clinic in conjunction with the Senior Center if there is availability. Location and advertisement to be determined.

Covid Test Kits- Mr.White attended the quarterly and monthly meeting held by the State. At the meeting there was discussion of buying COVID Kits. \$9,000 was allotted to obtain COVID Tests Kits through the State Omnibus Bid System. This amount is to be used by June 30, 2022. Mr.White will contact the State to discuss when we will receive said amount and how the Board of Health will distribute the COVID Tests Kits to the public. The State gives free COVID Tests Kits to recreational Camps in the Town. Tests will come in multiples of 180 with 2 test kits per kit with 90 kits per box. Camps may order up to 1,800 tests. Recreational Camps and programs may request a one-time distribution of the kits by filling out the survey. The survey is due by June 3, 2022. Mr.White will send DPH information to Recreational Camps in Town.

Update on shared services nursing grant- Currently, the Town has the Massachusetts Health Offices Association posting the available positions. Tammy Spencer is interested in expanding the outreach to Western Mass Public Health Association, Massachusetts Municipal Association and the Massachusetts Public Health Nursing Association. The Board of Health may discuss an adjustment in the pay and hours to entice more applicants. The Board briefly discussed ways to reach out to the community such as social media, flyers, robo calls and other dissemination tools. Mr.White is interested in improving our outreach.

Well and Septic regulations - The Board will address the promulgation of the new septic regulations. This may take place at the next meeting on June 2, 2022 when the new Board Member is present and all Board Members have reviewed the new regulations. Mr. FitzGerald and Mr.White need to review the well regulations as well as to make certain that this is the best fit for our environment in the Town of Southwick.

Meetings / Training

Title 5 Conference- Mr. White spoke of the different systems presented at the conference as well as the installation and getting certified. The Title 5 Conference was promoted by Underground Supply with assistance from the Western Mass Public Health Association.

Hampden County Health Coalition- Mr. White attended the Hampden County Health Coalition meeting where they did a light debriefing on Covid and new activities. The Board discussed a mentoring program for Health Departments and Emergency Preparedness.

The Board had a discussion about the Food Establishments that are not in good standing with the Board of Health as far as applications and certificates needed for proper permitting.

The next meeting is on June 2nd at 6:00 pm.

Sue Brzoska made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm, and Mikenzie Cain seconded the motion. The vote of the Board was unanimous in favor.

Roll Call Vote

Mikenzie Cain– Yes

Sue Brzoska – Yes

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Barton, Secretary

Alex White, Health Director

Mikenzie Cain, Vice Chairman

Sue Brzoska, Chairperson

Thomas FitzGerald, Health Agent

_____ Date

cc: Select
Board
Town Clerk