

**MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
March 19, 2020**

OPENING: The regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Health opened at 7:00 p.m. The following members were in attendance:

Dr. Jerome Azia

Sue Brzoska

Jean Nilsson

Ms. Tammy Spencer, Health Director, was also in attendance.

Tonight's meeting is being held via teleconference.

Dr. Azia read the Virtual Opening of Meeting statement pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 order suspending certain provisions to the open meeting law.

MINUTES

Ms. Brzoska made a motion to accept the minutes of March 5, 2020. Dr. Azia seconded the motion. The vote of the Board was unanimous in favor.

ATTENDANCE

Public Health Nurse, Dr. Kate Johnson

MS. SPENCER'S REPORT

COVID-19 Discussion

As of the date of this meeting there are 10,442 confirmed/presumptive cases in the U.S. and 256 confirmed cases in Massachusetts according to the CDC. The Board of Health along with Public Health Nurse, Kate Johnson discussed recent orders given by the Governor of Massachusetts and what Southwick will do to ensure the orders are being followed and our community is kept informed.

Ms. Tammy Spencer has visited the majority of food establishments in town to offer signage and best safety practices along with a letter stipulating the recent order from Governor Baker. Ms. Spencer will be contacting all churches in town informing them of the Governor's order, prohibiting assemblages of more than 25 people.

Governor Baker has ordered all daycare centers to close by Monday March 23, 2020 unless they have been awarded emergency power to remain open due to the fact that they are caring for children of emergency personnel. Ms. Spencer will contact the daycares centers that are remaining open to ensure that they are complying with the governor's order.

Governor Baker has ordered that Police and Fire Departments will be given addresses of homes that have confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Ms. Spencer has conferred with Chief Bishop regarding visiting/inspecting local establishments. Chief Bishop will accompany Ms. Spencer at any time she feels necessary.

Ms. Spencer will regularly check in with residents that have been quarantined.

Ms. Spencer will be investigating a couple of complaints regarding food establishments not following Governor Baker's order of customers not consuming food or drink on the premises. Due to the emergency situation at hand Ms. Spencer will need to inquire as to how Boards of Health are to handle establishments that are not enforcing the Governor's order.

The Hampden County Health Coalition has received \$250,000 in funds from the state. Ms. Spencer has submitted the needs assessment for the Town of Southwick. The funds will be distributed by the Pioneer Valley Health Coalition.

Dr. Kate Johnson suggested that signage be displayed outside of Southwick Town Hall and in the lobby informing residents and employees of proper protocol that is to be followed while in the building and to stay home if you are experiencing any flu like symptoms.

Ms. Spencer will be e-mailing all Chairmen information regarding safe practices for all Board and Committee meetings. Dr. Kate Johnson stated that it is extremely important to continue educating people as the COVID-19 pandemic is continually evolving.

Mr. Thomas FitzGerald received a letter from the Ethics Board stating who he can and cannot work for. A copy of the letter will be kept on file at the Board of Health.

The next scheduled meeting is April 2, 2020.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Pelley, Secretary

cc:
Select Board
Town Clerk

Dr. Jerome Azia, Chairman

Tammy Spencer, Health Director

Sue Brzoska

Jean Nilsson

Date