

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
April 9, 2020**

OPENING: The special emergency meeting of the Board of Health opened at 6:00 p.m. The following members were in attendance:

Dr. Jerome Azia

Sue Brzoska

Jean Nilsson

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

This meeting is being held via Zoom.

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**

Dr. Azia made a motion to approve the minutes of April 2 as ammended. Ms. Brzoska seconded the motion. Roll call vote is as follows:

Dr. Azia – yes

Ms. Brzoska – yes

Ms. Nillson – yes

**ATTENDANCE**

Select Board Chairman, Russ Fox, Select Board Clerk, Joe Deedy, Select Board Vice Chairman, Doug Moglin.

**MS. SPENCER'S REPORT**

**TITLE 5**

Ms. Spencer is continuing to limit septic system inspections to repairs on occupied homes only.

Ms. Spencer has approved 3 septic design plans at the following locations: 1 Sawmill park, 15 Sawgrass lane, 9 Noble Steed

Ms. Spencer has witnessed Soil Suitability Tests at 132 Point Grove, 226 Mort Vining Rd, 17 Fred Jackson Rd, 13 Sawgrass Lane, 68 Congamond Rd, 249 S. Longyard Rd, 1 Sawmill park, 7 Falconcrest Rd, 5 Liberty Lane

Ms. Spencer has conducted final inspections: 33 Gillette Rd, 41 Foster Rd, and 12 Liberty Lane.

**Covid-19 Discussion**

There have been fewer calls inquiring as to the number of confirmed cases in Southwick since the addition of that information to our website. Our website will be updated every Friday. Any calls that do come in regarding the number of confirmed cases are being referred to the website.

Ms. Spencer has been receiving many calls from business owners on how to handle specific situations that might arise during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ms. Spencer has received a few phone calls regarding concerns with horse stables in town adhering to state guidelines and how horse owners can continue to attend their horses. Ms. Spencer has spoken with Animal Control Officer, Liz Bennett, who has been visiting all the stables in town to ensure state guidelines are being followed. Ms. Bennett, stated that the stables are operating accordingly and has no concerns at this time. Ms. Spencer and Ms. Bennett will continue to keep in contact.

Ms. Spencer has received a complaint about Body Fit Warehouse allowing patrons to use their facilities. Ms. Spencer has issued a letter to the establishment. As of the date of this meeting Ms. Spencer has not received a response.

Ms. Spencer issued a letter to Agawam Revolver club informing them of their obligations on how to operate under the Essential Services Order. Police officers are the only members that may utilize the range under the Governor's order. The owner has issued letters to members of the Club and also put the letter on the Club's Facebook page.

Ms. Spencer issued a letter to Rail Trail Ale House regarding proper maintenance of their dumpster.

The State has issued new guidance for grocery stores which includes setting occupancy limits of 40%, and procedures on how staff should monitor the stores occupancy levels. Ms. Spencer will be in contact with Big Y to discuss their plan on how they are going to keep track of their occupancy level and how they will continue to adhere to social distancing guidelines as well as any provisions that may be utilized to keep employees and customers safe. Ms. Spencer will be speaking with Building Inspector, Mr. Art Lawler about occupancy limits for Big Y.

Ms. Spencer has received several phone calls concerning appropriate PPE for employees of food establishments offering take out service. The CDC issued an advisory April 3, 2020 that face masks should be worn in public settings. However, the state has not issued any orders requiring employees who work in food establishments to wear masks or gloves. The State maintains that hand washing and social distancing as the most important way to stop the spread of the virus.

Ms. Spencer and Lieutenant Landis are discussing options for our local greenhouses and nurseries to be able to open safely and adhere to Governor Baker's Essential Services Order. Select Board Chairman, Russ Fox suggested Ms. Spencer refer to the Massachusetts Flower Growers Association website for information as it contains a letter from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health with guidance regarding operation of green houses, nurseries, garden centers and agricultural supplies stores under the Essential Services Order. Select Board Member, Doug Moglin forwarded Ms. Spencer the April 4, 2020 letter from MDPH.

Ms. Spencer will contact Health Nurse, Dr. Kate Johnson for an update and will post the update on the Town of Southwick website Friday April 10, 2020.

Ms. Nillson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:35. Dr. Azia seconded the motion.

Roll call vote is as follows:

Dr. Azia – yes

Ms. Brzoska – yes

Ms. Nillson - yes

The next scheduled meeting is April 16, 2020.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jessica Pelley, Secretary

cc:  
Select Board  
Town Clerk

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Dr. Jerome Azia, Chairman

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Tammy Spencer, Health Director

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Sue Brzoska

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Jean Nilsson

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Date