

**MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
April 23, 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

Ms. Brzoska made a motion to approve the minutes of April 16, 2020. Dr. Azia seconded the motion. Roll call vote is as follows:

Dr. Azia – yes

Ms. Brzoska – yes

Ms. Nilsson – yes

ATTENDANCE

Select Board Vice Chairman, Doug Moglin, Select Board Clerk, Joe Deedy,
Health Nurse, Dr. Kate Johnson

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: 231 Hillside Road, 5 Liberty Lane, and 112 Mort Vining Road.

Ms. Spencer performed a final inspection at 143 North Lake Avenue.

Ms. Spencer received a complaint yesterday regarding multiple unregistered vehicles and a septic system in failure located at 187 Vining Hill Road. Ms. Spencer investigated the complaint and both complaints were valid. Ms. Spencer has referred the issue of the unregistered vehicles to Mr. Art Lawler, Building Inspector. Ms. Spencer has contacted the Conservation Commission in regard to the septic system as it appears to be within the 100ft buffer zone of a bordering vegetative wetland. Ms. Spencer will be researching the history of the property and deciding how to proceed.

COVID-19 DISCUSSION

The Town has been continuing to receive complaints about groups of people congregating at the North boat ramp. The Southwick Police Department has been continuously dispersing groups. Ms. Spencer visited the dock with Dick Grannells, Chairman, Lake Management Committee, to discuss where to put up signage for social distancing. If the problem persists Ms. Spencer recommends shutting down a portion of the area including the greens, gazebo and the fishing pier. On Monday Ms. Spencer will reevaluate the results of the signage that was put up.

Ms. Spencer has been in discussion with the Conservation Commission about opening parking lots to open space properties. Today they visited the Granville Gorge parking lot. Ms. Spencer sees no reason why we cannot reopen parking lots as long as certain steps are taken to ensure public safety. The Conservation Commission will be removing the trash barrels to eliminate any risk associated with removing the garbage and will be posting signage for safe trail use and taking your garbage with you.

Ms. Spencer is in conversation with Michelle Hill, Town Clerk regarding the May election. Due to the nature of the voting machines, the voting will need to take place indoors. Ms. Spencer has been securing PPE for the staff and discussing the layout of event, as well as staffing the election. Dr. Azia inquired as to increasing the use of absentee ballots. Doug Moglin, Select Board Vice Chairman, stated that it might not be within the town's control and will take that question as an action item and discuss it with Karl Steinhart, Chief Administrative Officer.

Beginning Monday April 27, 2020 and continuing for 2 weeks from 8:00-4:00 Monday thru Saturday, town residents with a transfer station permit will be able to bring their brush to TJ Bark Mulch.

Dr. Kate Johnson stated that as of tonight Southwick has 100 residents that have been tested and 27 confirmed positive cases. We currently have 4 cases that are active and in isolation. The remaining confirmed cases have now completed their isolation periods. The police and fire departments are updated on positive cases on a regular basis. Dr. Johnson stated that there has been a surge in cases that she expects to continue and contributes that to more local testing.

Ms. Spencer will visit Meadow View Farm on opening day.

Ms. Nillson made a motion to return to our regular meeting schedule. The motion was not seconded.

Dr. Azia made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:27. Ms. Brzoska seconded the motion.

Roll call vote is as follows:

Dr. Azia – yes

Ms. Brzoska – yes

Ms. Nillson - yes

The next scheduled meeting is April 30, 2020.

Meeting adjourned at 6:27 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