

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
July 16, 2020**

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

Dr. Jerome Azia, Chairman

Sue Brzoska, Vice Chairman

Jean Nilsson, Clerk

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. Nilsson made a motion to accept the minutes of July 2, 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, Peter Courier, Westfield Evening News

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**MS. SPENCER'S REPORT**

**TITLE 5**

Ms. Spencer will be inspecting and approving new septic plans as time allows.

Ms. Spencer witnessed Soil Suitability Tests at 281 South Longyard Road.

Ms. Spencer performed final Title 5 inspections at 7 Mockingbird Lane, 119 Granville Road, 1 Cody Lane, 12 Tammy Lane, 27 Honey Pot Road, and 11 Lexington Circle.

Ms. Spencer approved septic design plans for 5 Rising Corner, and 11 Lexington Circle.

**BEAVER TRAPPING INSPECTIONS**

422-418 College Highway

**RECREATION CAMP INSPECTIONS**

## **FOOD INSPECTIONS**

D&J's Hash House

## **CODE ENFORCEMENT COMPLAINTS**

4 Nicholson Hill Road-follow up inspection conducted for a horse manure complaint. Complaint remediated.

Ms. Spencer is looking into Southwick joining the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District. There is an annual fee of \$5000.00 to join the district. As part of the district Southwick would receive routine monitoring for mosquito born diseases and the ability to purchase all a cart any mosquito control services that we might need. This would need to be included as an article on a warrant at an annual Town meeting or a special Town meeting for the select board to vote for approval. Ms. Nilsson asked Mr. Moglin if there were any Town meetings planned in the foreseeable future. Dr. Azia asked Mr. Moglin if they would hold a meeting for one article. Mr. Moglin's answer to both questions was no. Mr. Moglin also stated that he believes this has come in front of the Board of Selectmen within the last couple of years and the Select Board voted against it. The Board would like more information regarding the PVMCD. In the mean time because we have a lot of standing water due to beaver damming Ms. Spencer would like to purchase mosquito dunks to put in the standing water to help control the mosquito population. Mosquito dunks are bacteria (BTI) that is deadly to mosquito larvae only and are completely harmless to people, plants and wildlife and is registered on the EPA website. Ms. Brzoska inquired as to where the funds would come from to purchase the mosquito dunks. Ms. Spencer stated that they would cost approximately \$100 and she will be speaking with Mr. Steinhart about purchasing them.

Ms. Nilsson made a motion to allow Ms. Spencer to purchase mosquito dunks. Dr. Azia seconded the motion. Roll call vote is as follows:

Dr. Azia – yes

Ms. Brzoska – yes

Ms. Nilsson – yes

Ms. Nilsson requested a copy of the fiscal year 2021 budget.

## **COVID COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS**

Tribal Life Crossfit, and D&J's Hash House

## **COVID-19 DISCUSSION**

Ms. Spencer continues to answer questions regarding outdoor events, sports, performances, weddings, indoor events at reception halls, fitness centers, museums, road races, graduation, and school reopening.

## **TRAVEL ADVISORY**

Dr. Kate Johnson received a question from a town employee regarding individuals quarantining for 14 days, upon their return from traveling to another state. Dr. Kate Johnson agreed to bring it to the Board for discussion. Ms. Spencer and Mr. Steinhart discussed this topic with Town Counsel and Union Representatives and came up with a policy in relation to the travel advisory. Municipal employees are considered essential and can work through a quarantine given correct

precautions. Quarantining is currently an advisory and is not mandatory. The Town will not be enforcing the 14 day quarantine at this time. However there is a bill being worked on that might make a 14 day quarantine mandatory. If the bill is passed the topic will be taken to Town Counsel for discussion. Dr. Kate Johnson voiced her concern about potential exposure to others as the result of individuals traveling to other states and stressed that we need to do everything we can to minimize exposure. Ms. Spencer ensured her that we are doing everything we can to ensure to minimal exposure. Dr. Azia asked if employees should have their temperatures taken upon entering into Town Hall. Ms. Spencer has done a significant amount of research about taken temperatures and there is liability involved if you are not a medical professional. Ms. Spencer and Ms. Nilsson both feel that it is not practical due to the fact that most Town employees enter the buildings through different doors and at different times.

Ms. Spencer has been speaking with Cindy Sullivan, Council on Aging, regarding holding a flu clinic this fall for Southwick Seniors. Ms. Spencer feels that it would be a good idea to hold the flu clinic and to utilize a preregistration process. Springfield Pharmacy would be hosting the clinic at no cost to the Town. Ms. Spencer would be available to assist Ms. Sullivan who will be coordinating the event in conjunction with Springfield Pharmacy. Dr. Kate Johnson spoke about the different types of flu vaccines and different ways that they could be made available to the general public. Ms. Nilsson made a motion for Ms. Spencer to continue to assist Ms. Sullivan with the flu clinic. Ms. Brzoska seconded the motion. Roll call vote is as follows:

Dr. Azia – yes

Ms. Brzoska – yes

Ms. Nilsson – yes

As of the date of this meeting there are 63 positive cases, 4 cases currently in quarantine, 1 case active and hospitalized, and 2 deaths.

Ms. Brzoska asked Dr. Kate Johnson if an employee is required to wear a face mask if there is a plexi glass partition. Ms. Spencer stated that they are required to wear a mask unless they have a medical condition. Ms. Brzoska stated that an employee in Mobile was not wearing their mask on multiple occasions. Ms. Spencer will visit the location.

Ms. Brzoska asked Mr. Moglin if a Town employee leaves the State and quarantines for 2 weeks upon return will they be paid? Mr. Moglin said they would not be paid.

Ms. Brzoska asked Dr. Azia if he has the evaluation form for Ms. Spencer's 6 month review. Dr. Azia said he will have it available for the next meeting.

Ms. Nilsson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:58. Dr. Azia seconded the motion.

Roll call vote is as follows:

Dr. Azia – yes

Ms. Brzoska – yes

Ms. Nilsson - yes

Dr. Azia asked about the plan for graduation. Ms. Spencer has been in contact with Superintendent Willard regarding the guidelines put forth by the Department of Education for the graduation ceremony to be held Saturday, July 25, 2020. Final approval will be from the Department of Education.

The next scheduled meeting is August 5, 2020.

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 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