

**MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
August 20, 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. Brzoska made a motion to accept the minutes of August 5, 2020. Dr. Azia seconded the motion. Roll call vote is as follows:

Dr. Azia – yes

Ms. Brzoska – yes

ATTENDANCE

Select Board Vice Chairman, Doug Moglin, Dennis and Sue Clark, Southwick Rotary Club,
Peter Courier, Reminder Publications

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

LIVE MUSIC EVENT

Mr. Dennis Clark spoke on behalf of the Southwick Rotary Club about hosting a float in music event on the lake that would also be broadcast on You Tube. The band would be set up on private property on either South or Middle Pond, adhering to all social distancing guidelines. Ms. Spencer asked if the event had been discussed with the Harbor Master. Mr. Clark spoke with the Harbor Master and stated that as long as authorities can gain access to the boats and boats are not anchored together there is no problem. The Rotary Club would advertise this to the public along with all other guidelines that will need to be followed. The Board Members asked Mr. Clark a number of questions regarding specific details of the event including how to ensure adherence to outdoor event standards. Dr. Azia asked Ms. Spencer if the event would be subject to the 50 person limit. Ms. Spencer stated the event being proposed would fall under outdoor event standards and that the drive in social distancing standards would be applicable to this type of event. Mr. Clark will submit a detailed plan of the event to Ms. Spencer. Ms. Nilsson made a motion to allow Ms. Spencer to approve the plan for the Rotary Club to hold a float in music event. Ms. Brzoska Seconded the motion. Roll call vote is as follows:

Dr. Azia – yes

Ms. Brzoska – yes

Ms. Nilsson - yes

MS. SPENCER'S REPORT

Ms. Spencer witnessed Soil Suitability Tests at 217 Klaus Anderson, 642 College Highway, 2 lots at 72 Mort Vining Road, 328 College Highway, 38 Mort Vining Road, 14 North Lake Avenue, 115 Fred Jackson.

Ms. Spencer performed final Title 5 inspections at 7 Gargon Terrace, 93 South Loomis, 226 Mort Vining Road, 231 Hillside Road, 23 Veteran Street, 19 Veteran Street, 5 Woodside Circle, and 5 Rising Corner

Ms. Spencer approved septic design plans for 299 North Loomis and 217 Klaus Anderson.

Dr. Azia asked if we are keeping a record of the fees that are collected and would like to see them at our next meeting. Ms. Spencer will bring that information to the next meeting along with the budget.

Ms. Spencer performed a cursory well Inspection at 9 Noble Steed Crossing.

Ms. Spencer performed a pre-operational Food Service Inspection for a commissary kitchen for Crave food truck at the former Black Rabbit Farm on North Loomis.

Ms. Spencer performed a housing complaint inspection.

Ms. Spencer has been working on securing health and safety training for Town Hall employees. Potential training may include maintenance and janitorial services, some of which would be COVID 19 related and cyber security training for all employees.

There is a grant from MIIA open. Ms. Spencer is researching how we can utilize the grant.

COVID-19 DISCUSSION

Ms. Spencer stated that we have 69 positive cases with 1 person currently in isolation. As of Wednesday there have been 350 people tested in Southwick since the last meeting.

Dr. Kate Johnson is working with the schools on PPE Training and COVID 19 policy development for the DESE and DPH Guidelines.

Friday, August 7, 2020, the Governor put out a new set of initiatives aimed at stopping the spread which includes stricter state wide policies regarding public and private gatherings, targeted community guidance and free COVID 19 testing sites in 17 communities. The Outdoor Gathering Order went into effect August 11, 2020. Restaurant rules have also been updated to state that alcohol can only be purchased for onsite consumption if it's accompanied by food purchase. ABCC will be periodically checking receipts at restaurants to monitor compliance.

Under the Travel Advisory Rhode Island and Hawaii have been added as a restricted states as of August 7, 2020.

Ms. Spencer will begin holding weekly meetings every Thursday with the School Department to review any information the state puts out on Wednesday afternoon in regard to case numbers.

The State has been gradually putting out direct requirements on how to handle positive cases and contacts within the school community.

The Department of Public Health has recently released a flu vaccine requirement for all school aged children including those in child care above the age of 6 months. The requirement must be met by December 31, 2020.

Ms. Spencer has also been working with the Rec. Center to ensure the safest care possible and that any information that goes to the schools also go the Rec. Center.

Dr. Azia asked how many cases would we have to have that would cause the schools to have to roll back to full remote learning? Ms. Spencer and The Board discussed the color coded map the State now uses to track positive cases and how it pertains to smaller communities like ours, along with other circumstances that could arise to cause all or part of our schools to revert to full remote learning.

Ms. Brzoska asked what playgrounds are open. Ms. Spencer stated playgrounds are allowed to be open. Ms. Spencer has not had any phone calls about large groups of people using playgrounds in town.

The Board voiced their concerns regarding Southwick Baptist Church not being in compliance with the Governor's orders. On more than one occasion there has been a large amount of cars parked on the premises. The Board would like Ms. Spencer to investigate.

Ms. Nilsson asked for more information regarding the housing complaint. Ms. Spencer did not have that information available as it was not something that she would have provided in her previous position. The Board informed Ms. Spencer that past practice of the Southwick Board of Health has been to give a summary of the complaint investigation including an address. Ms. Spencer will have the information available at the next meeting.

Melissa Bridges, Secretary of Inspectional Services, has taken another job within the building and is expected to start September 1, 2020. Ms. Bridges will be available to train the new Secretary for Inspectional Services. Dr. Azia asked who would be doing the interviews and if it is an internal posting first. Ms. Spencer and Mr. Scott, Building Inspector, will be going over interview questions. As of the date of this meeting there have been no applicants. The Select Board will be making the final decision as the appointing authority.

Mr. Doug Moglin further explained the function of the Massachusetts Inter local Insurance Association, (MIIA), which the town belongs to.

Mr. Moglin asked Ms. Spencer to follow up with him on the cyber security training that she's working on as it's a big topic with the Select Board as well and he would like to work together on this.

Dr. Azia asked if there have been any issues with public not attending in person meetings. Mr. Moglin stated that he hasn't received any complaints about that. The Town has been working on setting up areas and technology so that when the time comes we will potentially be able to hold an in person meeting with zoom available as well.

Ms. Brzoska stated that she has submitted Ms. Spencer's evaluation. Dr. Azia stated that he did not receive the evaluations. Ms. Pelley will give the evaluations to Ms. Spencer to sign and forward copies to Dr. Azia.

MEETINGS/TRAININGS/SEMINARS

Hamden County Health Coalition-Ms. Spencer was part of a training for strategies to improve COVID 19 communication.

Ms. Nilsson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:54. Ms. Brzoska seconded the motion.

Roll call vote is as follows:

Dr. Azia – yes

Ms. Brzoska – yes

Ms. Nilsson - yes

The next scheduled meeting is September 3, 2020.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 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