

**MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
September 3, 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 August 20, 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, Peter Courier,
Reminder Publications, Sophia, Dhira Yoga

PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Courier asked if there would be discussion regarding the School Committee's decision to delay the start of school sports until spring. Dr. Azia stated that the Board of Health does not have any say in that decision. Ms. Spencer confirmed that the Board of Health is an advisory to the School Committee and does not have a part in the decision making of the School Committee.

MS. SPENCER'S REPORT

Ms. Spencer witnessed Soil Suitability Tests at 275 Granville Road, 100 South Loomis, and 115 Fred Jackson.

Ms. Spencer performed final Title 5 inspections at 25 Woodside Circle, 94/96 North Lake Avenue, 7 Overlook Drive, 14 North Lake Avenue, 9 Noble Steed, and 12 Deer Run.

Ms. Spencer approved septic design plans for 14 North Lake Avenue and 325 College Highway.

Ms. Spencer performed a pre-operational Food Service Inspection for the Cinnamon Bun Saloon food truck. The food truck will be located at Coward Farm on College Highway.

Ms. Spencer performed a pre-operational, follow up Food Service Inspection at the Brass Rail.

Ms. Spencer is working on a housing complaint at 5 Feeding Hills Road.

Ms. Spencer issued a Code Enforcement Complaint to 138 Point Grove Road.

Ms. Spencer issued another Notice to Correct to Wayfinders for a smoking issue at Ahrend Circle that has not been corrected as of the date of this meeting.

Ms. Brzoska asked if Ms. Spencer performs a follow up inspection when a violation notice is issued. Ms. Spencer confirmed that she does perform follow up inspections to ensure the issue is resolved.

Ms. Spencer is working with the custodians and maintenance staff on developing a chemical storage policy and a lifting and back support policy for Town Hall employees.

Ms. Spencer reported that there have been 3 human cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis, and 3 human cases of West Nile Virus in Massachusetts this week.

COVID-19 DISCUSSION

On August 29, 2020, the State Travel Advisory has been amended to add Colorado, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia to the lower risk category which already includes Connecticut, Main, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Vermont, and New York

Ms. Spencer continues her weekly meetings with other local Boards of Health to discuss the latest information as it's released. Ms. Spencer also continues to meet weekly with the Southwick Regional School District along with Public Health Nurse, Dr. Kate Johnson. This week they discussed the increase in cases that resulted in Southwick changing from grey to yellow on the State Map. Dr. Azia asked what puts a town from one color to the next color. Dr. Johnson explained that it depends on how many positive cases per 100,000 and because Southwick is under 50,000 the formula becomes very complex. Dr. Johnson also stated that as of the date of this meeting the State Dashboard has Southwick at 64 positive cases when in fact we have 73 positive cases, with 4 cases in isolation. Dr. Johnson gave other examples of inconsistencies between State and local reported information. While Dr. Johnson does recognize that there is some lag time for the information to be relayed to the different departments for accurate reporting, the discrepancies are concerning to her. Dr. Johnson is also concerned about the holiday weekend and a possible rise in positive cases and urges everyone to remain diligent in their efforts to stop the spread.

Dr. Azia inquired about the motocross race at The Wick this upcoming weekend. Ms. Spencer has been in contact with Rick Johnson who is in charge of the event. Ms. Spencer is very satisfied with the plan for the event. There are no spectators allowed, it is limited to a rider and their pit crew. All participants preregister online which results in an accurate count of everyone on the grounds with their contact information if it becomes needed. Dr. Azia asked who gave permission to allow the race at The Wick. The Board of Selectmen were the deciding authority. Mr. Deedy stated that The Wick is doing a great job adhering to State guidelines and addressing any issues as they arise.

Ms. Brzoska asked for an update regarding the Southwick Baptist Church. Ms. Spencer issued a letter requesting their self certification checklist and their plan to remain in compliance per the Governor's Orders with a deadline of 2 weeks. As of the date of this meeting Ms. Spencer has

not received the certified mail receipt. Ms. Nilsson asked what we would do if they don't submit the required documents. Mr. Moglin is also concerned about the over abundance of cars in the parking lot and the possible safety issues that might arise. Mr. Deedy offered to visit the church with Ms. Spencer and Chief Bishop if he's available, to have a discussion about The Boards concerns over possible compliance issues.

There was some discussion regarding the flu vaccine mandate. Dr. Johnson has concerns over parent refusal and religious beliefs keeping children from getting the vaccine.

Dr. Johnson informed The Board that there are some communities that have decided to follow the CDC guidelines and are forgoing the 14 day quarantine for contacts and positive cases. Mr. Moglin asked what communities are participating in that. Dr. Johnson stated that Westfield is one of the communities following CDC guidelines instead of DPH.

Ms. Nilsson informed Ms. Brzoska that she has a copy of the budget and there haven't been any expenditures as of yet. Dr. Azia asked to see the amount of funds that The Board of Health generated for the last fiscal year. Ms. Brzoska stated that there is \$1200 left in the Covid-19 budget. Ms. Spencer stated that there is money available under the Cares Act. Mr. Moglin confirmed that, and stated we could look to be reimbursed for certain Covid-19 related needs should it become necessary.

MEETINGS/TRAININGS/SEMINARS

Hamden County Health Coalition
Department Head Meeting

Ms. Nilsson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:03. 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