

**MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
November 5, 2020**

OPENING: The emergency special 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.

ATTENDANCE

Select Board Vice Chairman, Doug Moglin, Select Board Chairman, Joe Deedy, Dr. Kate Johnson, Peter Courier, Reminder Publications

COVID-19 DISCUSSION

As of the date of this meeting Southwick has had 102 positive cases, with 13 cases in isolation, 19 cases currently in quarantine, and 2 deaths. The Board asked Dr. Johnson many different questions ranging from the difference between quarantine and isolation, how many asymptomatic cases are in town, is there a common denominator between the cases etc.. Ms. Spencer asked Dr. Johnson to explain to the Board the guidelines that are used from DESE regarding the time children must learn remotely if there is a positive case in the household. Dr. Johnson stated that using the guidelines from DESE can become very complex and depends on certain factors that may not be the same in all households therefore length of quarantine is specific to each individual household.

Mr. Deedy asked if the Board of Health is in need of funds to cover costs incurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Spencer stated that the Health Department is able to use the Cares Act Funding.

Ms. Spencer went over the Governor's New Orders and Advisories that will go into effect November 6, at 12:00am. The New Orders and Advisories include a Stay at Home Advisory, Early Closure of Businesses and Activities, Face Covering Order and a Gatherings order. The Face Covering Order requires face coverings to be worn in all public places regardless of being able to social distance, as well as allowing schools and employers to ask for proof of medical exemption to wearing a mask. The Gatherings Order limits the size of gatherings at private residences to 10 inside and 25 outside. The Gatherings Order also requires gatherings to end and guests must leave by 9:30. The Early Closure of Business and Activities Order mandates a closing period for certain businesses and activities that includes restaurants from 9:30pm-5:00am. However, restaurants may continue to offer take out and delivery of food and non-alcoholic beverages only as all alcohol sales must cease at 9:30.

Ms. Brzoska asked Ms. Spencer if she visits the businesses in town to check for compliance. Ms. Spencer reports very high levels of compliance within the businesses she has visited.

Ms. Spencer and Ms. Lamoureux, Southwick Regional School Nurse, have worked together to provide a free flu clinic to all Southwick residents over the age of 3. The flu clinic will take place on November 18 from 2-6 at Whalley Park. CVS will be administering the vaccine. Online registration is available on the CVS website.

Dr. Azia asked Dr. Johnson and Ms. Spencer if they need any assistance due to the increasing number of positive cases in town and additional Governor's Orders and Advisories. Dr. Johnson said she is able to keep up with the work at this time as did Ms. Spencer.

Ms. Nilsson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:47. Dr. Azia seconded the motion.

Roll call vote is as follows:

Dr. Azia – yes

Ms. Brzoska – yes

Ms. Nilsson - yes

The next scheduled meeting is November 19, 2020.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 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