

**MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
December 3, 2020**

OPENING: The regularly 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 November 19, 2020. Ms. Brzoska seconded the motion. Roll call vote is as follows:

Dr. Azia – yes

Ms. Brzoska – yes

Ms. Nilsson – yes

ATTENDANCE

Select Board Chairman, Doug Moglin, Select Board Vice Chairman, Joe Deedy, Peter Courier,
Reminder Publications

MS. SPENCER'S REPORT

TITLE 5

Ms. Spencer performed final Title 5 inspections at 130 College Highway.

Ms. Spencer approved a septic design plan for 2 Noble Steed Crossing, 26 Coes Hill Road, and 187 Vining Hill Road.

MEETINGS, TRAININGS, SEMINARS

Private Well Workshop, CEIT Seminar, Hampden County Health Coalition

TRAVEL ADVISORY

The current list of COVID-19 lower-risk states includes Hawaii.

COVID-19 DISCUSSION

As of the date of this meeting, Southwick has 41 cases in quarantine and 47 cases in isolation with 1 person in the hospital. In the last 14 days, 797 residents were tested with 58 testing positive.

Due to the increase in positive cases, Southwick has been in the red for 3 consecutive weeks and is now moving back to a step 1 community according to the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. A lot of the services that are affected by this change are not in town. Gyms, libraries, and museums will have to lower their capacity from 50% to 40%. Outdoor gatherings can not have more than 50 people.

The Contact Tracing Collaborative contacted Dr. Kate Johnson and informed her that none of the cases she had sent to them within a 3 week span had been contacted due to the extreme back log within the Collaborative. None of the cases were cluster cases and have since been contacted by either Ms. Spencer or Dr. Johnson.

The State has adopted the CDC's distribution plan for COVID-19 vaccinations. The CDC's plan can be accessed at [mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov). Dr. Azia asked what the Town's plans were for administering the vaccine. Ms. Spencer stated that the State has sent all local Boards of Health a Vaccine Program Provider Agreement that needs to be signed by the Town's Chief Executive Officer in order for the Town to be eligible to receive the vaccine. Ms. Brzoska voiced her concerns about storing the vaccine once it has been distributed. Ms. Spencer assured her that once we do receive the vaccine it will come in its own storage vessel capable of keeping it at the proper temperature. Exact dates for distribution have not been fully determined at this time. Mr. Moglin asked if there has been any information given regarding a patient observation period after administration of the vaccine. Ms. Spencer has not received any information pertaining to an observation period. Ms. Brzoska asked if there has been any information shared regarding the booster that is required with the vaccine. While Ms. Spencer has not received specific information regarding boosters she is hopeful that the PrepMod app that will be used to make appointments to receive the vaccine will also be able to keep track of when boosters need to be given. The current Emergency Dispensing Site plan the town utilizes will need to be adjusted to accommodate the different strategies that will need to be used to distribute the COVID-19 vaccine. Dr. Azia is concerned that once we get the vaccine we will not have a plan. Ms. Spencer stated that she has been working on revising our current plan for months and is very confident that it will be ready when needed. Mr. Moglin stated that he has every confidence that the Town will be prepared.

Peter Courier asked if there have been any clusters in Town. Ms. Spencer stated that while there are no clusters, there are neighborhoods with positive cases that are located near each other. Ms. Spencer also stated that quite a few people say they do not know where they could have contracted the virus which makes it hard to do contact tracing.

Ms. Spencer will be participating in a bi-weekly conference call tomorrow with the Department of Public Health to discuss COVID-19 dispensing site plans. Ms. Nilsson asked Ms. Spencer to e-mail the Board members a brief summary of the meeting.

Ms. Nilsson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:51. 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 December 17, 2020.

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 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