

**MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
December 17, 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 table the minutes of December 3, 2020. Ms. Brzoska seconded the motion. Roll call vote is as follows:

Dr. Azia – yes

Ms. Brzoska – yes

Ms. Nilsson – yes

ATTENDANCE

Select Board Vice Chairman, Joe Deedy, Dr. Kate Johnson, Health Nurse, Peter Courier, Reminder Publications

MS. SPENCER'S REPORT

TITLE 5

Ms. Spencer witnessed a Soil Suitability Test at 10 Crystal Drive

Ms. Spencer performed final Title 5 inspections at 286 Granville Road and 44 North Lake Drive

Ms. Spencer approved a septic design plan for 255 Granville Road, 642 College Highway

MEETINGS, TRAININGS, SEMINARS

Multiple Planning meetings for COVID-19 Vaccinations, MEHA Fall Seminar Part 2: Current Title 5 Topics

BUDGET

The Board discussed necessary increases to the budget in regard to the Health Nurse and Supplies and Materials line items in light of the uncertainty of the coming year. Ms. Spencer stated that the DPH has relayed information to local Boards of Health that there will be more local public health money in the form of grants available in the near future. Ms. Spencer also discussed with the Board the reimbursements that are available through the State for different types of COVID-19 related spending.

Ms. Brzoska asked if Ms. Spencer was due an increase in salary after her first year of employment according to her contract. Dr. Azia asked the Board members if they would like to revisit the Health Director's compensation due to the extra responsibility of the Health Director because

of the pandemic. The Board will review the Health Director's contract and discuss it at the next Board of Health meeting.

TRAVEL ADVISORY

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

COVID-19 DISCUSSION

Southwick currently has 13 cases in quarantine, 18 cases in isolation, 1 person in the hospital, 2 ER transports and 5 deaths. Since the beginning of the pandemic 7,138 residents were tested with 258 testing positive. Ms. Brzoska asked if there was an average age within the positive cases. Dr. Azia asked if the cases could be traced back to the schools or if there was a common denominator among the cases. Dr. Johnson stated that it's mostly families that are testing positive with no known common denominator. Ms. Brzoska also asked how many positive cases are symptomatic versus asymptomatic. Dr. Johnson estimates that 80%-90% of the cases are symptomatic. Dr. Johnson and the Board discussed the difference in quarantine and isolation, the different types of quarantine, if positive cases are retested before coming out of quarantine, among many other COVID-19 related issues.

The Governor announced that effective December 14, 2020, all of Massachusetts will be rolling back to step 1 of phase 3 with additional restrictions. Ms. Spencer has notified the establishments in town affected by the change.

Ms. Spencer went over the State's COVID-19 vaccination presentation with the board. The vaccine Timeline can be found at mass.gov/covidvaccine. Dr. Azia asked if a COVID-19 vaccine immunization clinic will look like vaccine clinics the Town has held in the past. Ms. Spencer explained that due to the state of Emergency and the Governor's Orders that are in place the clinic will look very different. Ms. Spencer continues to participate in multiple planning meetings to discuss the information being relayed from the State regarding the dispensing of the vaccine.

Ms. Nilsson asked Dr. Johnson who will be covering for her December 23, 2020-January 3, 2021. Dr. Johnson explained that she has informed the Contact Tracing Center of the dates she will be unavailable. If the local public health nurse does not get to the case within 24 hours it will roll over to the Contract Tracing Center. Dr. Johnson showed Ms. Spencer how to pull a report for First Responders with in MAVEN and will relay that information to the Fire Chief and Police Chief.

Ms. Nilsson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05. 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 January 7, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 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