

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
January 21, 2021**

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 approve the minutes of January 7, 2021. Dr. Azia seconded the motion. Roll call vote is as follows:

Dr. Azia – yes

Ms. Brzoska – abstained

Ms. Nilsson – yes

**ATTENDANCE**

Select Board Chairman, Doug Moglin, Select Board Vice Chairman, Joe Deedy, Dr. Kate Johnson, Health Nurse

**MS. SPENCER'S REPORT**

**TITLE 5**

Ms. Spencer witnessed a Soil Suitability Tests 125 Sheep Pasture Road, 63 North Lake Ave, 25 Birchwood, 1 at the Greens West, and 2 at the Greens East.

Ms. Spencer approved septic design plans for 19 Veteran, 10 and 13 Overlook Drive.

**HOUSING INSPECTION**

246 Feeding Hills Road

**MEETINGS, TRAININGS, SEMINARS**

Medical Reserve Corps Statewide Call to Local BOH, Variety of Immunization and PrepMod Trainings and Seminars, as well as the twice-weekly Public Health Interagency Conference Calls, Select Board Meeting.

**TRAVEL ADVISORY**

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

**COVID-19 DISCUSSION**

Due to potential cases and close contacts within the building the North Side entrance to the building has been closed to the public. As of the date of this meeting it does not seem like there has been any transmission between employees. Online transactions and the drop box continue to be

used for transactions that need to be completed. Ms. Spencer has been speaking with some of the departments in the building to see if there is anything we can do to make their work situations safer and or more comfortable.

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act expired on December 31, 2020, and has not been extended and employees are no longer required to provide paid leave under FFCRA. The Select Board has been working on a new policy to address the issue. Ms. Spencer attended the Select Board meeting and provide them with her input.

Effective Monday, January 25, 2021, at 5:00 am the State at Home advisory for the hours of 10pm — 5am and the Mandatory Early Closure of Businesses Order requiring certain businesses to close by 9:30 has be rescinded. However, the 25% capacity and gathering limits remain in place until 5:00 am February 8, 2021.

Dr. Johnson reviewed a chart highlighting positive COVID-19 cases since March. As of the date of this meeting Southwick has had 375 positive cases. Dr. Johnson stated that most of the spread is within families. Ms. Brzoska asked where people are getting tested and how to find where the testing sites are located. Dr. Johnson said that where people are getting tested varies and that testing locations can be found on the Town's website and is updated often. Dr. Johnson and Ms. Spencer have been working on how to facilitate vaccine clinics efficiently and safely. The Board expressed their desire to have EMS on site during clinics. Ms. Brzoska asked if the refrigerator we currently have will be sufficient and if there is a back up refrigerator if needed. Ms. Brzoska also asked if we would be freezing or refrigerating the vaccine and at what temperature it needs to be stored at. Ms. Brzoska's concern is that if the freezer goes through an automatic defrost the vaccine might be compromised due to fluctuation in temperature. Ms. Spencer has been checking the temperature of the refrigerator daily and that there are 2 back up refrigerators available if necessary. Dr. Johnson further explained the temperature range for freezing the vaccine. The Board and Dr. Johnson along with Ms. Spencer, Health Director, had a very lengthy discussion regarding the different phases in which the vaccine will be distributed, locations of clinics, registering for a clinic using the PrepMod app among many other topics involving distribution of the vaccine.

Dr. Johnson read a poem she wrote about the COVID 19 pandemic. Ms. Brzoska requested that it be included in the Board of Health minutes of January 21, 2021.

Mr. Deedy reminded the Board to submit their budget. Ms. Spencer discussed with the Board about increasing the Public Health Nurse and Immunization line items. Ms. Spencer will be forwarding the budget to the Board for review. Mr. Moglin explained to the Board how reimbursements for COVID-19 necessities might or might not be available depending on how they were purchased.

Ms. Brzoska made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:28. 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 February 4, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jessica Pelley, Secretary

cc:  
Select Board  
Town Clerk

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Dr. Jerome Azia, Chairman

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Tammy Spencer, Health Director

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Sue Brzoska

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Jean Nilsson

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Date