

**MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
February 25, 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 February 11, 2021. Dr. Azia seconded the motion. Roll call vote is as follows:

Dr. Azia – yes

Ms. Nilsson – yes

ATTENDANCE

Select Board Chairman, Doug Moglin, Select Board Vice Chairman, Joe Deedy, Health Nurse, Dr. Kate Johnson, Peter Currier, Reminder Publications, Dennis Hackett, Reminder Publications

MS. SPENCER'S REPORT

TITLE 5

Ms. Spencer performed final Title 5 inspections at 3 Nobel Steed Crossing (New), 4 Nobel Steed Crossing (New), Fernwood (Repair), 373 Granville Rd (Repair)

MEETINGS, TRAININGS, SEMINARS

MHOA/DEP Webinar: PFAS in Drinking Water, Lead & Copper testing in schools; Dealing with Noise complaints in your community, Inter-Agency Conference Calls on Tuesday and Friday, COVID-19 Vaccination Stories from the Field: Local Health Department & Pharmacy Partnerships

TRAVEL ADVISORY

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

COVID-19 DISCUSSION

Governor Baker announced that the Commonwealth will be moving into Phase 3, Step 2, on March 1, 2021. Ms. Spencer provided the Board with a power point presentation that was provided by the State outlining the changes going into effect on March 1, 2021. Some of these changes include but are not limited to the following. Restaurants will no longer have seated capacity limits, but will be required to keep tables 6 feet apart, with a limit of 6 people per table for 90 minutes max. Indoor performance venues may open at 50% capacity with a 500 person max. Indoor recreation activities may also open at 50% capacity. Capacity limits for libraries, close contact personal services, office spaces, and places of worship as well as many other industries

may open at 50% capacity. Employees will be exempt from capacity restrictions in those industries.

Subject to public health data, the Commonwealth will move into Phase 4, Step 1, on March 22, 2021. The complete list of announcements and any updated guidance can be found at www.mass.gov/reopening

Governor Baker announced last week that local municipalities will no longer be able to request their own vaccine. Select Board Chairman, Doug Moglin, was contacted by the Mayor of Agawam, Mr. William Sapelli, to discuss participating in a regional vaccine clinic at the Big E in West Springfield. Mr. Moglin presented the information to the Select Board at their last meeting. The Select Board gives full support to a regional clinic. The Board also gives full support to a regional clinic. As of the date of this meeting the Governor has not approved the regional clinic.

The Town of Southwick has had 21 positive cases in the last 14 days moving us into the yellow category. All of the counties in Massachusetts are at a lower percentage rate. The average age of positive cases are in their fifties.

The Board discussed reducing Food Service Permit fees for 2022. Ms. Nilsson presented the Board with a lot of information about the amount of fees collected and the number of permits issued in all of the categories related to food service, as well as the Board of Health budget to date. Ms. Nilsson proposed to the Board that at minimum the Catering and Mobile Food Permit fees be eliminated and all Food Service Permit fees be reduced by 50% or all Food Service Permit fees be eliminated as well as Catering and Mobile Food Permits for 2022. Ms. Spencer spoke to the Board about the amount of work involved in inspecting mobile units and restaurants and suggested a reduction in fees rather than eliminating them entirely. The Board will continue to discuss the subject and make a decision at a future meeting.

There are 7 establishments in Town that have either not applied for their permits, paid for their permits, or provided the proper documentation for their permits. Letters have been issued to all of the restaurants with a deadline for submitting their application with payment and all proper documentation as well as fines imposed.

Ms. Brzoska asked if the budget meeting has been scheduled. Ms. Spencer will send the link to the Board members for the meeting that will be held on March 20, 2021, at 9:15.

Ms. Nilsson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:06. 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 March 4, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 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