

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
March 18, 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. Brzoska made a motion to approve the minutes of March 4, 2021. Dr. Azia seconded the motion. Roll call vote is as follows:

Dr. Azia – yes

Ms. Brzoska – yes

Ms. Nilsson - yes

**ATTENDANCE**

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

**MS. SPENCER'S REPORT**

A vehicle crashed into the Dunkin Donuts restaurants located at 397 College Highway. Ms. Spencer inspected the establishment after the accident.

**TITLE 5**

Ms. Spencer performed final Title 5 inspections at 21 Sawgrass, 39 Fernwood, 52 Pineywood, and 10 Overlook

Ms. Spencer witnessed a Soil Suitability Test at 5 Tree Top Lane.

Ms. Spencer approved septic design plans for 39 Fernwood and 52 Pineywood

**MEETINGS, TRAININGS, SEMINARS**

MHOA Quarterly Meeting – All Things Food, CDC Guidance: When You've Been Fully Vaccinated, Vaccine Task Force Meeting, as well as the twice-weekly Public Health Interagency Conference Calls

**TRAVEL ADVISORY**

March 22, 2021 The Massachusetts Travel Order will be replaced by a Travel Advisory. Travelers are exempt from the advisory if they are fully vaccinated, have a negative test within 72

hours of arrival, or are returning to Massachusetts after an absence of less than 24 hours. The current list of COVID-19 lower-risk states includes Hawaii.

## **COVID-19 DISCUSSION**

Dr. Azia asked if there has been any news on the proposed regional clinic at the Big E in West Springfield. Ms. Spencer has not received any new information.

The Southwick/Westfield Housing Authority through the Massachusetts Senior Affordable Housing COVID-19 Vaccine Program was able to hold on site vaccine clinics. They had excess doses of the vaccine and were able to offer vaccines to Southwick residents over the age of 65. Southwick was able to sign up approximately 200 seniors to be vaccinated.

The Baker-Polito Administration has updated the vaccine timeline for all remaining residents to become eligible. Residents are now able to preregister for the vaccine. The Board went over the different groups that will become eligible on March 22, 2021, April 5, 2021, and April 19, 2021. Phase 4 step 1 will begin on Monday, March 22, 2021 and will increase gathering limits. No new guidance has been released as of the date of this meeting. Updated guidance can be found at [www.mass.gov/reopening](http://www.mass.gov/reopening).

The Commissioner of Education has issued an order for school systems to transition from hybrid learning to full in person learning. The School Committee has announced an anticipated timeline for returning to full in person learning for grades k-6 on April 5, 2021 and grades 7-12 on April 26. Full remote learning is still an option for families for the remainder of the school year. Ms. Spencer stated that about 1/4 of the students in each of the schools have chosen to remain remote for the remainder of the school year.

Dr. Johnson informed the Board that Southwick has had 26 positive cases in the last 2 weeks putting us into the red category. Ms. Brzoska asked why our positive cases are increasing. Dr. Johnson explained to the Board that most of the cases are within families however, there has been a cluster of cases that resulted from a group of people that had been dining together at the Brass Rail Meeting House. Ms. Brzoska asked if guidelines were being followed. Ms. Spencer said that she has spoken to the owner multiple times about the incident and it appears the customers were dancing and singing. The owner stated that she intervened but the customers were not receptive. Ms. Spencer went over in detail with the owner COVID-19 protocols that need to be followed and will be visiting the establishment on Monday. Ms. Nilsson asked when the last time the establishment was inspected and if their Food Permits were paid for. Ms. Spencer stated that the establishment has new owners which instigated an inspection this past fall and that their Food Permits were paid for. Dr. Johnson requested that a sign in book be used at the establishment to help with contact tracing if needed and that a police officer visit the establishment when it's in operation. The Board along with Dr. Johnson, Doug Moglin, and Joe Deedy discussed at length what could be done to ensure a situation like this does not occur again. Ms. Brzoska made a motion to have Ms. Spencer deliver a sign in book to the Brass Rail on Friday, March 19, 2021 and to request that a police officer visit the establishment and contact her if there are any concerns. Ms. Nilsson seconded the motion. Roll call vote is as follows:

Dr. Azia – yes

Ms. Brzoska - yes

Ms. Nilsson - yes

Dr. Azia made a motion to enter into an executive session at 7:16 p.m. in accordance with Chapter 30A, S21B, to discuss Ms. Spencer's Health Director Contract. Ms. Nilsson seconded the motion. Roll call vote is as follows:

Dr. Azia – yes

Ms. Brzoska - yes

Ms. Nilsson - yes

Ms. Nilsson made a motion to return to the regular scheduled meeting at 7:54 p.m. Ms. Brzoska seconded the motion. Roll call vote is as follows:

Dr. Azia – yes

Ms. Brzoska - yes

Ms. Nilsson - yes

Ms. Brzoska made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55. 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 April 1, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 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