

**MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
March 26, 2020**

OPENING: The regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Health opened at 7:00 p.m. The following members were in attendance:

Dr. Jerome Azia

Sue Brzoska

Ms. Tammy Spencer, Health Director, was also in attendance.

MINUTES

Ms. Brzoska made a motion to table the minutes of March 19, 2020. Dr. Azia seconded the motion. The vote of the Board was unanimous in favor.

ATTENDANCE

Public Health Nurse, Dr. Kate Johnson

Tonight's meeting is being held via teleconference and is in addition to our regularly scheduled monthly meetings.

MS. SPENCER'S REPORT

COVID-19 Discussion

As of the date of this meeting there are 1,838 confirmed/presumptive cases in Massachusetts, of those cases 55 are in Hampden County. In Southwick there are 3 positive cases and 3 contact cases in quarantine. Dr. Kate Johnson has been in contact with the quarantined cases relaying information on how to manage symptoms and who to contact with questions. The Police and Fire Departments have been informed of the addresses of the positive cases in town. Ms. Tammy Spencer has been in contact with Karen Casey who is the contact for the Housing Authority, Dr. Kate Johnson has been in contact with Kate Hood who manages some of the group homes, regarding sanitizing of common areas, recognizing symptoms, taking the proper steps if someone develops symptoms, and making sure residents have current information regarding social distancing and orders put forth by Governor Baker.

The Board of Health office has been receiving an increasing number of calls with questions related to COVID-19. The Board of Health is referring all non-emergency questions to 211.

To keep the community informed, Ms. Spencer will be issuing a press release informing the public of the current number of positive and quarantined cases in Southwick.

Ms. Brzoska made a motion for Ms. Spencer to issue a press release regarding COVID-19 cases. Dr. Azia, seconded the motion. The vote of the Board was unanimous if favor.

Governor Baker has recently issued orders to close all non-essential business, reduce gatherings to 10 people or less, suspend services involving congregate settings such as day health programs, revise grocery and pharmacy operations, and extend the closure of schools and non-emergency child care until May 4, 2020. A complete compilation of Governor Baker's orders can be found at [mass.gov/2019coronavirus](https://www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus).

The Department of Public Health has issued advisories to stay at home if you over 70 and have underlying health conditions and safe practices for the general public.

As a result of the newest orders put forth by Governor Baker, all town buildings are closed to non-essential personnel.

All playgrounds are also closed per Board of Health order. Ms. Spencer has posted signs at these locations.

Ms. Spencer assisted Southwick Tolland Regional School with an issue regarding a group of people blocking part of the track with their equipment. The issue has been resolved. The track may continue to be used. Anyone using the track should maintain social distancing guidelines.

Council on Aging Director, Cindy Sullivan, and a member of the Maintenance Staff are continuing to hand out meals to our seniors on behalf of the Senior Center.

The School Department is continuing to hand out lunches in Southwick and Granville.

There has been concern over groups of people congregating outside the Summer House. Ms. Spencer has been in contact with the restaurant's owner regarding the issue. In an attempt to keep people from congregating on the premises the owner has put up caution tape around the outside seating area and turned the picnic tables upside down. Chief Bishop dispatched an officer on Saturday to ensure social distancing guidelines are being followed.

The Special Town Meeting held Tuesday evening outside at the Southwick Regional School has resulted in complaints and much concern from the community. Ms. Spencer informed the Board that a committee was formed approximately two weeks ago to ensure the Town of Southwick was following Governor Baker's orders regarding town meetings. The Special Town Meeting Tuesday was time sensitive and within the parameters set forth by the Governor. The Board has voiced their concern to Ms. Spencer regarding future town meetings being held in the traditional manner. Ms. Spencer informed the Board that the Select Board will be looking into different options available for future town meetings if this were to happen again.

The Board of Health has received a check in the amount of \$6,700 from the state for local public health support. The money has been deposited into a Board of Health account and will be used to support the town's efforts to keep the community safe and informed. The town should be receiving an additional check in the same amount.

Dr. Azia has requested that Ms. Spencer inquire with the Department of Public Health and the Department of Agriculture regarding our local farm stands and nurseries. The Board would like clarification on whether they are considered essential businesses. Ms. Spencer will be in contact with these businesses.

The next scheduled meeting is April 2, 2020.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 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