

**MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
May 6, 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 April 15, 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, Dr. Kate Johnosn, Peter Courier, Reminder Publications

MS. SPENCER'S REPORT

Ms. Nilsson made a motion to begin our regularly scheduled meetings at 7:00pm. Ms. Brzoska seconded the motion. Roll call vote is as follows:

Dr. Azia - yes

Ms. Brzoska - yes

Ms. Nilsson - yes

TITLE 5

Ms. Spencer performed final Title 5 inspections at 112 Mort Vining Hill, 5 Tree Top Lane, 130 Feeding Hills Road, 54 Davis Road, 47 Fernwood, and 314 Granville Road.

Ms. Spencer witnessed Soil Suitability Tests at 217 College Highway, 4 Tobacco Road, 158 South Longyard Road, 22 Laurel Ridge, 36 North Longyard, and 80 North Lake

Ms. Spencer approved septic design plans for 95 Powder Mill and 6 Laurel Ridge.

FOOD SERVICE INSPECTIONS

Kettle Bread Deli and Gristmill Cafe

Ms. Spencer reached out to the Recreation Camps, pools, and the Town Beach to discuss the upcoming summer season. Ms. Spencer discussed what there would be for COVID-19 protocols. Ms. Brzoska asked if COVID-9 can be spread through water. Dr. Kate Johnson stated that there has been no evidence of the virus spreading through water. Ms. Spencer will be reaching out to Mr. FitzGerald, Southwick's former Health Director and Phoenix Lab in Agawam that does the water testing for the Town Beach for information on how the tests should be conducted.

MEETINGS, TRAININGS, SEMINARS

MEHA Title 5 Seminar I/A Technologies

COVID-19 School Safety Committee-discussed changes to the travel order and quarantine guidance

Press Conference for the Regional COVID-19 Vaccine Site at the Big E

Hampden County Health Coalition-The main topic was vaccine and vaccine acceptance. The Coalition will be putting together a subcommittee to see if there is anything else that can be done to encourage people to get vaccinated including college students who might need the vaccine in order to attend college.

as well as the twice-weekly Public Health Interagency Conference Calls

COVID-19 DISCUSSION

Beginning Monday large venues such as stadiums and ballparks can increase capacity from 12% to 25%. Road races and other large organized group athletic events can take place with staggered starts and by submitting safety plans to local Boards of Health. Singing will also be allowed indoors with strict distancing requirements. April 30, 2021 the face covering order has been relaxed for some outdoor activities and the fines for not complying have been eliminated. There has been some confusion regarding the changes. Ms. Spencer has received many inquiries regarding how the changes apply to outdoor activities like youth sports. The complete list of upcoming changes can be found at [mass.gov/reopening](https://www.mass.gov/reopening).

The West of the River Collaborative Vaccine Site has had less people signing up for the vaccine.

Vaccines will be administered to homebound residents Southwick, Granville, and Tolland tomorrow.

Ms. Spencer went to The Wick 338 to discuss with Rick Johnson and his son what would need to be done to hold Nationals this year. Mr. Johnson informed Ms. Spencer that there might be an option for them to move Nationals to August.

Southwick has had 22 positive cases in the last 14 days putting Southwick in the yellow category. Dr. Azia asked how many deaths Southwick has had since the beginning of the pandemic. Dr. Johnson stated that we have had 9 deaths to date. Dr. Johnson stated that the average age of positive cases continues to trend younger. Most cases are in families, however there was a cluster a couple of weeks ago. Mr. Moglin commented that most of the vaccinated people are in the older age bracket so it makes sense that the positive cases are trending younger. Dr. Johnson stated that there have been several break through cases in families where the parents have been vaccinated but a child tests positive.

Southwick has approximately 2800 fully vaccinated individuals and approximately 4000 individuals with at least one dose.

Ms. Spencer had a meeting to discuss preparations for the Town Meeting on Tuesday, May 18, 2021. Mr. Moglin is hopeful that it will be broadcast on channel 15. There will be a recording available after the meeting.

Dr. Johnson sent a letter to the Board announcing her retirement beginning June 30, 2021.

Ms. Spencer has had multiple conversations with Granville and Tolland and is proposing to regionalize the Public Health Nurse position. The Board discussed the posting for the Public Health Nurse. Mr. Steinhart, suggested Ms. Spencer meet with one of our legal councils to put together everything needed for the posting. Dr. Azia made a motion to accept Dr. Johnsons retirement letter. Ms. Nilsson seconded the motion. Roll call vote is as follows.

Dr. Azia – yes

Ms. Brzoska - yes

Ms. Nilsson - yes

Peter Currier asked Dr. Johnson when the break through cases occurred. Dr. Johnson stated that they have been within the last 2 weeks. Ms. Brzoska asked what a breakthrough case is and how many we have had. Dr. Johnson stated that there has been 9 cases. A break through case is someone that is fully vaccinated but contracts COVID-19. Dr. Azia asked if any break through cases have been admitted to the hospital. There has been no one admitted to the hospital that has been fully vaccinated. Ms. Brzoska asked if we know what vaccine had been administered in the break through cases. Dr. Johnson stated that they are collecting that data and she believes that it is mostly people vaccinated with Pfizer.

Mr. Moglin thanked Dr. Johnson for her time serving as Public Health Nurse for Southwick. Mr. Moglin also thanked Dr. Azia for his 21 years of service to the Board of Health in Southwick.

Ms. Brzoska spoke on behalf of herself and Ms. Nilsson and voiced their appreciation for his 21 years of service and the relationship they all developed over the years. Dr. Azia will be greatly missed during our future meetings.

Ms. Nilsson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:08. 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 May 20, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 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