



Town of West Boylston
140 Worcester Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

The Board of Health Meeting Minutes

Date / Time / Location of Meeting	10-22-2019 / 6pm / Room 120
Members Present	Robert Barrell, Michaun Fowler, Thomas Dillon, John Sullivan
Members Not Present	Beverly Salate
Guests	Dennis Minnich (Chief, WBPD), Cara Cullen, Chris Rucho and Barur
Welcome – Call to Order	Time: 6:00 pm

Purpose of meeting

Halloween activities and active EEE Virus threat

Discussion

Dennis Minnich, Chief of Police, stated that he disagrees with changing the date, especially at this late date. He noted that no other Alliance municipality has changed the date. He stated that this would lead to possible problems and confusion with both residents and out of town people utilizing both 10/31/19 and 11/02/19 to Trick or Treat, with the potential to create additional safety issues.

Dr. Sullivan explained that because there has not been a hard freeze (he defined as 4 hours at 28 degrees F), mosquitoes are still active and a threat for infecting children with EEE virus. He stated that it is the Board of Health's job to determine safety. While West Boylston is designated having a Moderate threat, the neighboring town of Boylston is designated a High threat and therefore he is recommending children not be out after sunset. He believes the risk of even one child being infected is greater than the inconvenience of changing the date and time for Trick or Treating. His recommendation is to change the date to Saturday, 11/02/19 and the hours to 3pm to 5:30pm. He noted that it was not possible to address this at an earlier date because we did not know until recently that there would not be a hard freeze before Halloween.

Mr. Dillon agreed with what the Chief is saying and suggested we caution parents about the ongoing EEE threat. Ms. Fowler agreed with this suggestion

Mr. Barrell proposed that due to the late notice, the date should not be changed, but that the Board issue an advisory about the continued threat of EEE virus and urge parents to take appropriate precautions.

Dr. Sullivan made a motion to not change the date, and recommend a timeframe that advises outdoor Trick or Treating activities be completed by 5:30pm to reduce risk as sunset is at 5:42pm and if people choose to be out after that time they should be advised to take the threat seriously and use precautions. Ms. Fowler concurred.

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Motion Originator Dr. Sullivan
Seconded Mr. Dillon
Result Approved unanimously
Ms. Lee will work with Mr. Barrell to develop message for Reverse 911 call, webpage posting, and electronic sign.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion Originator Ms. Fowler
Motion Seconded Dr. Sullivan
Result Approved unanimously
Time of Adjournment 6:10 pm

Signatures

Robert J. Barrell, MPA, Chairman

Beverly A. Salate, RN, BSN

Michaun Fowler, BSM

John Sullivan, MD

Thomas Dillon

Submitted by: Margaret Lee
Date Submitted: 11-13-2019

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