



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

## **The Board of Health Meeting Minutes**

<b>Date / Time / Location of Meeting</b>	<b>08-11-2021 / 6:00pm</b>
<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Robert Barrell, John Sullivan, Tracy Gagnon, Beverly Salate, Michaun Fowler</b>
<b>Members Not Present</b>	
<b>Guests</b>	<b>Danielle Edmands (CMRPHA); Chris Rucho (Select Board)</b>
<b>Welcome – Call to Order</b>	<b>Time: 6:00 pm - The meeting was held at the West Boylston Senior Center.</b>
<b>Approval of Previous Minutes</b>	<b>July 7, 2021 meeting minutes and August 4, 2021 meeting minutes, noted by present members to have been reviewed via email, were approved. The August 4<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were signed by those members who attended that meeting; the July 7<sup>th</sup> minutes will be signed at the next meeting.</b>
<b>07-07-2021 Minutes Motion to Approve</b>	<b>Ms. Gagnon</b>
<b>Motion Seconded</b>	<b>Ms. Fowler</b>
<b>Result</b>	<b>Approved unanimously</b>
<b>08-04-2021 Minutes Motion to Approve</b>	<b>Dr. Sullivan</b>
<b>Motion Seconded</b>	<b>Ms. Gagnon</b>
<b>Result</b>	<b>Approved unanimously</b>

- **COVID-19 Update**

Dr. Sullivan reported that there have been 12 new COVID-19 positive cases since the last report 08-04-2021; all are considered to be due to the Delta variant. Two are nursing home residents previously vaccinated, the others are West Boylston residents. Due to the ongoing risk of the more transmissible Delta variant, the Board discussed changing the “mask strong recommendation” to a mask “mandate” for indoor public gatherings, such as restaurants, businesses, places of worship, and municipal offices. Cited were the concerns around protecting children not yet eligible for the vaccine and other vulnerable citizens. Not only is the Delta variant more easily transmissible, it can also infect those who are already vaccinated. A point was made that the Governor has not mandated mask wearing statewide and it would be difficult to support and enforce, therefore waiting for a Governor’s order would be preferable. The Governor has made it clear that mandates regarding masks and vaccines will be left to authorities at the local level. It was noted that a number of municipalities have recently issued mask mandates in their communities to reduce the risk of transmission. It was also noted that U Mass Medical School and U Mass Memorial

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Healthcare are mandating all employees to be vaccinated. Ms. Salate noted that masks are mandated at her workplace (VNA) unless someone is alone.

Dr. Sullivan noted that it is the Board's responsibility to protect vulnerable citizens.

A start date was discussed, and the date agreed upon is 08-18-2021, pending approval by Town Counsel.

Mr. Barrell noted the difficulty of enforcing a mandate and supports waiting until the state issues a statewide mandate. Ms. Edmands noted that she and Ms. VanArsdalen are the enforcing agents and questioned how the Board anticipates their enforcing the mandate. The mandate would be communicated to the Town via the electronic sign board, letters to businesses, and the Town website. Inspectors would respond to any reported violations. It was noted that some businesses have already started supporting wearing of masks, such as Walmart.

In view of the recent increase of COVID-19 Delta Variant cases in the past three weeks, Dr. Sullivan and Ms. Gagnon put forward the following motion: The Town of West Boylston, in view of the recent explosion of the COVID-19 Delta Variant, is mandating the wearing of protective masks in indoor places of gathering, including municipal buildings, places of worship, restaurants, gyms and businesses. This mandate will be reviewed on a weekly basis and revised when the local COVID infection rate has markedly declined.

**Motion Originator**

Dr. Sullivan

**Motion Seconded**

Ms. Gagnon

**Result**

Approved 4 to 1 in favor after a roll call vote. Mr. Barrell was the dissenting vote.

- **CMRPHA Local Report**

Ms. Edmands' report covers the period since the last regular Board Meeting on 07-07-2021; she completed fourteen routine food inspections, three of which were re-inspections, and one tattoo parlor inspection; all passed inspection. She responded to four complaints, two of which involved reports of rats being sighted at two different business locations; those responsible were cooperative regarding resolving the issues.

- **Bill approval, Financial report**

Ms. Lee reported three invoices that were approved and signed by Mr. Barrell, including two for postage, and one for inspectional services with Worcester. She agreed to review the expenditures for COVID-19 funding and report the result to the Board. Mr. Barrell noted that further funding is being made available via Worcester through a grant to the Alliance municipalities.

She reported the current account balance as \$31,548.06.

Ms. Lee requested a refund be made to Ari's Tavern as they paid their Food permit fee but never opened and have decided to not move forward with the business. The Board agreed and a motion was made to refund the permit fee.

**Motion Originator**

Ms. Salate

**Motion Seconded**

Ms. Fowler

**Result**

Approved unanimously

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- Office report

Ms. Lee reported that she has not yet reviewed the Title 5 projects reports and will provide a detailed update soon. She noted that there have not been significant changes to the last report.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

<b>Motion Originator</b>	<b>Ms. Fowler</b>
<b>Motion Seconded</b>	<b>Ms. Salate</b>
<b>Result</b>	<b>Approved unanimously</b>
<b>Time of Adjournment</b>	<b>6:50 pm</b>

**Signatures**

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Robert J. Barrell, MPA, Chairman

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John Sullivan, MD

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Beverly A. Salate, RN, BSN

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Tracy Gagnon, MEd

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Michaun Fowler, BSM

**Submitted by:** Margaret Lee  
**Date Submitted:** 09-08-2021

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