



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

The Board of Health Meeting Minutes

Date / Time / Location of Meeting	10-20-2021 / 6:00pm / Conference Room 120 at Town Offices
Members Present	Robert Barrell, John Sullivan, Tracy Gagnon, Beverly Salate
Members Not Present	Michaun Fowler
Guests	none
Welcome – Call to Order	Time: 6:00 pm
Approval of Previous Minutes	September 29, 2021 meeting minutes, noted by present members to have been reviewed via email, were approved and signed.
09-29-2021 Minutes - Motion to Approve	Dr. Sullivan
Motion Seconded	Ms. Gagnon
Result	Approved unanimously.

- **COVID-19 Update**

Mr. Barrell asked Ms. Salate to present the update relevant to the MAVEN reports she is monitoring and to explain the process. Ms. Salate estimated that the numbers have decreased to one to two new cases per day (approximately 10 per week) since the beginning of October, not including the positive cases at the Worcester Correctional Center, which are being identified. The majority of infections are those not vaccinated, with a wide range in age, including children under 12.

Dr. Sullivan noted that the CDC considers Worcester County high risk, and West Boylston must take into account surrounding communities when considering rescinding the mask mandate.

Mr. Barrell noted that Worcester and Shrewsbury both now have mask mandates and Grafton is considering one.

Dr. Sullivan reported that he spoke with Worcester & CMRPHA Medical Director Dr. Hirsch, MD, who sent him a “white paper”, Covid Mitigation Strategies – Rationale & Data, providing information and support for the mask mandate; Dr. Sullivan read a portion from the paper (note: the paper will be posted on the Board of Health web page).

Pfizer has completed studies and applied for approval for vaccination for 5- to 11-year-olds, and expectation is it will be available in early November.

MA Department of Education is continuing the mask mandate in schools, projecting a relaxation of the mandate once 80 percent or more of the student population is vaccinated.

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UMass is completing a Moderna trial for 5- to 11-year-olds, expects approval and likely will be available for use in about a month.

Moderna and Johnson & Johnson's boosters will be available soon.

The Town should be advised that the mask mandate is likely to continue for a few more months.

Halloween considerations – West Boylston Police Department has issued a notice that hours for Trick or Treating are 5-8pm. Suggestions from Board members were that children be accompanied by an adult who can check treats for safety, and that no large gatherings or parties take place indoors due to increased risk of transmission.

Beaman Library Director Anna Shaw expressed concern and asked for guidance around volunteers possibly being unvaccinated. Mr. Barrell talked about volunteer requirements at Hanover Theatre and suggested the person doing the volunteer training require that volunteers be vaccinated.

- **CMRPHA Reports (Local & Regional)**

Regional report was emailed to the Board members. Ms. Lee provided a summary of Local inspections completed since the last report.

Ms. Lee reported Ms. Edmands has taken a regional health inspector position with another coalition.

- **Bill approval, Financial report**

Ms. Lee provided a brief summary of the most recent financial report, noting one invoice from Worcester for monthly inspectional services.

She noted that Nancy Lucier, Town Administrator, is seeking funding for ongoing COVID nursing support, after learning the expected funding is no longer available.

- **Office report**

Ms. Lee provided a brief summary of currently active Title 5 work, and noted that she has not yet received any submission for the new Bethlehem Bible Church septic system.

She reports that ZAZA Ink paid for a guest artist that withdrew due to the requirement for Skin Course certification and requested the Board approve a refund to ZAZA for the permit fee of \$50.00.

Motion to Approve

Motion Seconded

Result

Dr. Sullivan

Ms. Gagnon

Approved unanimously.

- **Change of BOH meeting day**

Due to Ms. Fowler not being available on Wednesdays at this time, the Board agreed to change its regular meeting day to Tuesdays. Mr. Barrell will call her to make sure this will work.

- **Board Member resignation**

Ms. Salate reported she will soon be moving to Holden and is therefore is resigning her position on the Board effective immediately. Those present expressed gratitude to her for her years of service.

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MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion Originator	Dr. Sullivan
Motion Seconded	Ms. Salate
Result	Approved unanimously
Time of Adjournment	6:45 pm

Signatures

Robert J. Barrell, MPA, Chairman

Beverly A. Salate, RN, BSN

John Sullivan, MD

Tracy Gagnon, MEd

Not in attendance

Michaun Fowler, BSM

Submitted by: Margaret Lee
Date Submitted: 11-16-2021

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