



**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>03-09-2022 / 6:00pm / Room 120, Town Offices</b>
	<b>Meeting available to view at <a href="https://www.westboylston-ma.gov/wbpa-public-access-tv">https://www.westboylston-ma.gov/wbpa-public-access-tv</a></b>
<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Robert Barrell, John Sullivan, Tracy Gagnon, Christopher Whelan, Thomas Mullins</b>
<b>Members Not Present</b>	
<b>Guests</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Welcome – Call to Order</b>	<b>Time: 6:00 pm</b>
<b>Approval of Previous Minutes</b>	<b>February 09, 2022 meeting minutes, reviewed via email by members, were approved.</b>
<b>02-09-2022 Minutes - Motion to Approve</b>	<b>Dr. Sullivan</b>
<b>Motion Seconded</b>	<b>Dr. Mullins</b>
<b>Result</b>	<b>Approved unanimously.</b>

- Authorized Signatures for FY 2023**

All members signed the Authorized Signature form for the Town Accountant. The Board proposed a motion to authorize any individual Board member to sign payrolls/vouchers/invoices for the Board of Health as needed.

**Motion to Approve**  
**Motion Seconded**  
**Result**

**Mr. Whelan**  
**Dr. Sullivan**  
**Approved unanimously.**

- COVID-19 Update**

Dr. Sullivan reported that the positive trends continue for low levels of COVID infection, the lowest seen since last June (2021). This is supported by local reports of infection and the Biobot reports. He noted that Biobot testing does sequencing as well, including Omicron variants BA1 and BA2 and is not seeing much of the newer BA2 variant; variants are not reported for Blackstone but several counties have variants reported. Several have 0% BA.2 reported but Middlesex and Suffolk counties are showing increasing levels of BA.2.

Mr. Barrell stated the West Boylston COVID case counts have been dropping over the past two weeks, with about 14 reported via MAVEN. Our Public Health Nurse reported to him that other communities are no longer monitoring daily case counts. It was also noted that CDC metrics have changed, using hospitalizations to monitor the infection rate. Mr. Barrell is recommending discontinuing daily case counts and reports at this time and having the Public Health Nurse contact the Board with any uptick in numbers. He also noted that West Boylston businesses have

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been responsible to communicate positive cases to the Board. Dr. Sullivan agreed, and noted that the Biobot testing provides a more relevant picture of the spread of infection. A motion was made to discontinue daily COVID case counts and reporting at this time with the understanding that the Public Health Nurse will report any significant increase in cases to the Board of Health.

Motion to Approve  
Motion Seconded  
Result

Dr. Sullivan

Mr. Whelan

Approved unanimously.

Mr. Barrell also reported that the West Boylston Board of Health was awarded additional funding for various costs associated with responding to the COVID outbreak. Our previous funding expired after 12-31-2021, and he needs to confirm the start date for use of this new award and if it can be used retroactively; the funding must be used for costs before 06-30-2022. He has reached out to Karyn Clark and she agreed to find the answer.

Dr. Sullivan reported that the Biobot testing is now able to detect Influenza in the Sewerage. He also noted that 76% of MA residents are now vaccinated against COVID.

- Annual Report

Three Board members reported they read the report and approved, while two members promised to review the report by 03-10-2020 and email their response to the office. At the time of this transcription, the Annual Report has been reviewed and approved by all members and submitted to the Municipal Assistant.

- CMRPHA Reports (Local & Regional)

Mr. Barrell noted that Ms. VanArsdalen was unable to attend this meeting due to participation in a Title 5 training in Mansfield, MA. She emailed a list of recent inspections to Ms. Lee, which noted six Food Service inspections completed since the last meeting, with no significant issues.

- Bill approval, Financial report

Ms. Lee provided a summary of the most recent financial report, noting two invoices received since our last meeting, for the IMA contract and Title 5 inspectional services. As of March 3, 2022, the Board of Health account balance is estimated at \$33,377.00. There have been no permits issued since the last report.

- Office report

Ms. Lee reported updates to last month's report, including that the owner of 202 Prescott Street submitted septic upgrade design drawings, paid the DSCP fee and is exploring permitted installers for the work. Septic projects were completed at 272 Lancaster Street (upgrade) and 216 Malden Street (repair). She also provided an update regarding the connection of 45 & 49 Central Street to Town Sewer.

She informed the Board that Ms. VanArsdalen has been attempting to follow up with the owner of Heritage Rose Tattoo parlor regarding hours reported by the apprentice. She also reported that she re-issued the letter to current permitted Septic Haulers regarding required reporting to our office.

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## Public Health Emergency Preparedness

- Next meeting

Dr. Mullins reported that he reviewed West Boylston's EDS plan and had a question about the Local Medical Reserve Corp needed to adequately vaccinate the town's residents in an emergency. Mr. Barrell stated the Medical Reserve Corp is managed through the City of Worcester Public Health.

Ms. Lee reported that she recently received an email from Cherry Tangri of the Worcester DPH regarding clarifications to the Tobacco Regulations relative to flavored tobacco products. The Board agreed to include it in next month's agenda.

The Board discussed the availability of members and decided the next meeting date – April 20, 2022.

## MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion Originator Mr. Whelan

Motion Seconded Dr. Mullins

Result Approved unanimously via roll call

Time of Adjournment 6:30 pm

## Signatures

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Robert J. Barrell, MPA, Chairman

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John Sullivan, MD

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Tracy Gagnon, MEd

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Christopher Whelan, MEd

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Thomas J. Mullins, MD

Submitted by: Margaret Lee  
Date Submitted: 04-20-2022

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