



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

The Board of Health Meeting Minutes

Date / Time / Location of Meeting	05-11-2022 / 6:00pm / Room 120, Town Offices
	Meeting available to view at https://www.westboylston-ma.gov/wbpa-public-access-tv
Members Present	Robert Barrell, John Sullivan, Tracy Gagnon, Christopher Whelan, Thomas Mullins
Members Not Present	
Guests	none
Welcome – Call to Order	Time: 6:00 pm
Approval of Previous Minutes	April 20, 2022 meeting minutes, reviewed via email by members, were approved and signed. It was noted that a minor clarification will be addressed as part of today's meeting minutes.
04-20-2022 Minutes - Motion to Approve	Ms. Gagnon
Motion Seconded	Dr. Mullins
Result	Approved unanimously

- COVID-19 Update**

Mr. Barrell stated he was not able to confer with our Public Health Nurse due to a recent death in her family.

Dr. Sullivan reported that, based on the most recent available Biobot report (measures prevalence of virus via sewerage), there were 1.4 million copies of the virus in the sample, which puts MA in the top 5 percent infection rate in the United States. West Boylston has a rate of 24 per 100,000 and the City of Worcester a rate of 40 per 100,000. While there have been increases in hospitalizations, the majority of cases are presenting with cold or flu-like symptoms.

Because this variant is easily transmissible, the CDC strongly recommends wearing a mask in indoor public settings and the Board of Health concurs with this recommendation.

Ms. Lee asked for clarification regarding the recommendation of the prescribed medication Paxlovid, for use in the early stages of COVID infection to help reduce symptoms. At the last meeting Mr. Whelan recommended the Board post information about this option on our website. Ms. Lee explained she had not yet done this due to time constraints plus concern about possible contraindications she read about in the news, and asked the Board for clarification. Dr. Sullivan recommended the information on COVID+ treatments be posted, and noted that it is already embedded in a link on the Board's webpage. He suggested we add a link directly to the COVID treatment info on the MA website to both the Board's webpage and the Town's main webpage.

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Dr. Sullivan noted that many people are using self-administered COVID tests at home, and those results are not reported to the state, therefore the number of infections is likely substantially higher than the reports show.

Dr. Sullivan recommended (as Mr. Whelan did at the last meeting) that information about treatments such as Paxlovid, for COVID symptoms, be posted on our webpage. Ms. Lee noted that she had not yet posted it because she had read some conflicting information and wanted to check in with the Board.

- **Tobacco Regulation Changes**

Mr. Barrell listed the permitted Tobacco Sales vendors in West Boylston. After review and discussion, addressing and voting on some specific policy decision items, the Board voted to accept the recommended changes as written. The following items were specifically reviewed:

- Cap and/or reduce number of permits – currently the maximum in West Boylston is 10, and there are currently nine permitted vendors operating. The Board unanimously agreed to reduce the maximum permits to nine.
- No new permits within 500 feet of an existing permittee.
- Include minimum cigar package size/ price as written.
- Restrict flavored tobacco products, including menthol, as written.
- Restrict flavored rolling papers, including hemp or any product producing a characterizing flavor when added to tobacco.
- Fine/violation options – use state language, with decision on a case-by-case basis for each violation.

Motions to approve
Motions seconded
Result

Dr. Sullivan

Mr. Whelan

Approved unanimously

Mr. Barrell noted that the Tobacco Inspector will visit all permitted vendors to explain the new regulations, provide a copy and have them sign a document verifying they received it. He also noted that the Federal Government may contribute to the regulations in the near future.

- **Trainings**

Mr. Barrell reported that he was not able to enroll in the four session (weekly) Equity training due to the restricted number of participants. Ms. Lee participated in the WebEOC training and gave a brief overview, which focused on assessing how the four attending municipalities (Holden, Sterling, Boylston, and West Boylston) respond to town-wide emergencies, and helped to identify areas of strengths and limitations in planning and execution, as well as potential needs for equipment and other related contingencies.

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

There was no report yet this month. Ms. VanArsdalen is on vacation.

- **Bill approval, Financial report**

Ms. Lee provided a brief summary of the most recent financial report, noting one invoice received since our last meeting for the monthly IMA contract.

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She noted recent deposits and estimated account balance of \$24,477.00. This does not include the grant funding.

Mr. Barrell provided a review of the two active grants for the Board of Health. He noted there is a balance from the \$14,427.00 grant received for contract tracing costs associated with COVID19 that will hopefully cover upcoming costs. He also clarified some details regarding the Federal Funds the BOH is receiving to cover the cost of our CMRPHA contract with Worcester for inspectional services (not including Title 5).

- Office report

Ms. Lee provided a brief update to last month's report, noting progress reported for 45 & 49 Central Street, the contractor indicating the project should be starting soon. She also noted she is still awaiting information from DPW and Weston & Sampson regarding the old septic system for the apartment building at 104 Shrine Avenue, which appears to not have been abandoned at the time of sewer hook-up.

A Shady Lane resident reported a possible sewerage outbreak into a small stream on his property; our inspectors and DCR are looking into it, as the stream runs into DCR land.

Pool and Camp permits will be coming up soon.

The Body Art Regulations were updated to reflect required apprentice hours vs. years to qualify, and were emailed to the two Body Art businesses in West Boylston along with recommendations for tracking hours.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion Originator	Mr. Whelan
Motion Seconded	Dr. Mullins
Result	Approved unanimously
Time of Adjournment	6:37 pm

Signatures

Robert J. Barrell, MPA, Chairman

Christopher Whelan, MEd

John Sullivan, MD

Thomas F. Mullins, MD

Tracy Gagnon, MEd

Submitted by: Margaret Lee
Date Submitted: 06-08-2022

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