



MEETING MINUTES BOARD OF HEALTH

February 21, 2024

140 Worcester Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

In accordance with the provisions of MGL 30A §§ 18-25

Approved 3.13.24

Date/Time/Location of Meeting:

2.21.2024/6:00pm/Room 120 Town Offices Land Use Meeting Room

Members Present:

John Sullivan, Robert Barrell, Tracey Gagnon, Thomas Mullins, Christopher Whelan

Members Absent:

None

Other Attendees:

Ian Wong WPPH, Devon Thornton, Environmental Health Coordinator, Sara Harris, Public Health Nurse, Karina Scott, Shared Services Coordinator, Maureen Adema BOH Admin.

Call to Order

Chair Sullivan called the West Boylston Board of Health meeting of Wednesday, February 21, 2024 to order at 6:00pm. There was a quorum. All boards members were present.

Board of Health Minutes Vote to Accept and Sign

Chair Sullivan stated the minutes from the September 13, 2023 and January 10, 2024 meetings were sent to the members prior to tonight's meeting for review and edits.

Chair Sullivan made a motion to accept the minutes of September 13, 2023 and January 10, 2024 meetings. Motion seconded by Mr. Mullins. No discussion. Vote 5 to 0. Motion passed.

Members signed the two sets of minutes.

Chair Sullivan shared a Wastewater analysis report that demonstrated on a graph the tracking of SARS-CoV-2, RSV, Influenza A, Influenza B and Norovirus from December 2023 through February 2024. He stated viruses have been tracking down in our area but nationally the risk is still high. He continued stating this is school vacation week, and people may become exposed to viruses while traveling. He encouraged all to be vaccinated, especially the elderly.

Vaccine Clinic Updates and Nursing Updates

Sara Harris, Public Health Nurse introduced herself as this was her the first West Boylston meeting. She said she is a Worcester Public Nurse and supports the Alliance and has been with the Alliance just under a year.

Ms. Harris stated virus numbers are down, in agreement with Dr. Sullivan's statement. She also encouraged people to get vaccinated and said the Alliance is continuing to work on educating people on the importance of being vaccinated.

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Ms. Harris stated there has been zero (0) food borne illness reported since last month's meeting. She said the Senior Center will continue to have monthly clinics for blood pressure. The scheduled blood pressure clinics also offer assistance to fill out File of Life Cards

She explained that a File of Life contains an individual medical history. This card should be place on the home refrigerator for EMS to grab in an emergency transport situation. Ms. Harris will bring a sample card to the next meeting.

The Board asked that File of Life Cards be available at the Board of Health Office/Town Hall. Additionally, the Classic Suites and Library were suggested locations for the cards.

Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance Updates

Local and Regional Updates

Karin Scott, Shared Services Coordinator added to Ms. Harris File of Life discussion stating she believes that the Senior Center has a supply of cards. She said these cards are a snapshot of an individual's health and also contains emergency contact information. EMS personnel are trained to look for these cards when called for assistance/transport. She continued stating that assistance in filling out the cards at the blood pressure clinics has been well received. Ms. Scott purchased more stock with grant money when the "free" stock ran out for the Alliance communities.

Ms. Gagnon offered to bring File of Life Cards to the Classic Inn for the 50 residents there, as she has a relationship with the owner. Ms. Scott said the nurses have done outreach to the residents at the Classic Inn hoping to start a relationship and connect on vaccine clinics, health topics and items such as File of Life Cards.

Mr. Wong suggested also having outreach to home bound residents and any other individuals who are not likely to attend a clinic at the Senior Center for File of Life Cards.

Ms. Scott reported the second Community Leadership Coffee was held on February 8, 2024 at the First Congregational Church. It was well attended with the Police Chief in attendance, School Superintendent, and Library Director, also in attendance. The next meeting will be at the Police Station on April 4th.

Ms. Scott shared West Boylston data at the Leadership Coffee. She said the data is public and available online and will send the link to the board members. The meeting's main topic was Food Insecurity and the shame is in asking for assistance. An action item from the meeting was to research on setting up a Community Fridge. Ms. Gagnon will provide Ms. Scott will contact information on individuals that have set up a Community Fridge. Ms. Gagnon also said Boy Scouts have set up Community Fridges as Eagle Scout Projects in communities.

The February topic is Heart Health, Ms. Scott shared the Community Flyer on *Six Ways to Love your Heart*. And she announced the opportunity for a Tobacco Compliance Intern. The interns must be between the ages of 16 and 20, will be paid \$15.00 an hour, the position is both summer and school year.

Office Report

Devon Thornton, Environmental Health Coordinator told the board the office is working on second notices to be mailed out to establishments that have not submitted their applications for 2024 permits.

Mr. Thornton reported he did 11 inspections this month, 7 food inspections and 4 retail establishments. He said there has not been any complaints filed this month. The office received a request from Jamie Terry, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Planner asking for the Town's contact list for the Town's Emergency Dispensing Site Plan. The office staff will submit the contact list.

The members received a report indicating the number of permits issued by category and total revenue.

Maureen Adema, BoH Administrative Assistant communicated that four invoices totaling \$10,258.88 are due to the City of Worcester Department of Public Health. These invoices are for services in the months of December, January, February and March.

Chair Sullivan approved and signed the City of Worcester Alliance payments for November 2023 December 2023, January 2024 and February 2024.

Maureen communicated that the total of \$12,450.00 has been paid for permits issued for Boby Art, Tobacco & Nicotine, Trash Haulers, Septic Haulers and Installer and Food Establishments. The office staff will be mailing out reminders/second request letters to those who have not applied for their 2024 permits.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Updates

Dr. Mullins informed the members that he attended the last PHEP meeting. One topic discussed was the use of AM transmitters and how they are an outdated technology. Mr. Barrell stated the office does have transmitters that have never be put to use.

Dr. Mullins informed the members that Northbridge and Leominster will be hosting Active Shooting trainings/drills. He continued saying that a lot of planning is going on. He said hospital trends being studied. A key issue is that guidance is needed from the State, as there is a new budget process in place.

Dr. Mullins spoke to the sheltering of families and the movement of families from Sherborn to Lowell without issue. The State has been monitoring families in shelters quite well. He continued saying that there are lots of children with COVID in the State. There was a brief discussion about testing for COVID and false positives.

Wachusett Farms/KC Brothers LLC

Chair Sullivan informed the members that Treasurer/Collector sent notice to the Board that Wachusett Farms/KC Brothers LLC has failed to pay a municipal charge in over a twelve-month period. It was confirmed the Board of Health's fine for a tobacco violation was paid. Chair Sullivan stated the Select Board has scheduled a Public Hearing on March 6, 2024 to consider the possible suspension and/or revocation of the Common Victualler and Wine and Malt Package Licenses issue to KC Brothers LLC, Wachusett Farms. Mr. Barrell communicated that he has received complaints regarding expires/past use dates on items at Wachusett Farms. Mr. Thornton has followed up on the complaints and inspected Wachusett Farms.

Chair Sullivan stated the Board of Health will not take any action on Wachusett Farms at this point.

Review – Planning Board application 216 West Boylston Street

Chair Sullivan communicated that the Board of Health has no comment or action on Planning Board application 216 West Boylston Street. Maureen will communicate to Planning.

Next meeting

March 13, 2024 – emails will be sent to members for confirmation.

Adjournment

Tracey Gagnon made a motion to adjourn at 6:30pm. Bob Barrell seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 5 to 0

Signatures

John Sullivan, MD, Chair

Christopher Whelan, MEd

Tracy Gagnon, MEd, Vice Chair

Thomas F. Mullins, MD

Robert J. Barrell, MPA