



The Board of Health Meeting Minutes

Date / Time / Location of Meeting	05-11-2020 / 6:00pm / via remote ZOOM conference
Members Present	Robert Barrell, Beverly Salate, Thomas Dillon, Michaun Fowler, John Sullivan
Members Not Present	
Guests	Phil Leger (CMRPHA), Sighle Philbin, Dan Mercurio (Agricultural Commission), Chris Rucho (Select Board)
Welcome – Call to Order	Time: 6:01 pm - The meeting was held “virtually” via Zoom and Mr. Barrell read a statement clarifying the reason and parameters thereof, pursuant to the Governor’s Order 03-12-2020 Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law.
	Mr. Barrell called the roll.
Approval of Previous Minutes	April 8, 2020 minutes, noted by present members to have been reviewed via email, were approved. They will be signed at the next in-person meeting.
Motion to Approve	Dr. Sullivan
Motion Seconded	Mr. Dillon
Result	Approved unanimously

- **COVID-19 Update**

Ms. Salate explained the Contact Tracing Collaborative (CTC) process as related to MA Virtual Epidemiology Network (MAVEN). MAVEN is the report used to track Communicable Diseases in the Commonwealth. COVID-19 testing labs enter the test results in MAVEN and the Public Health Nurse retrieves that info and compiles it for the Town. She contacts the COVID-19 positive cases to discuss quarantine and isolation protocols depending on their living situation, also learning who they live with and have had close contact with. She then speaks with others who live in the home to screen for symptoms, and provides guidance and follow-up. This usually involves three to four phone calls. If she is not able to do this contact tracing, then the MA CTC system will pick it up. At this time, the Public Health Nurse for West Boylston prefers to do the contact tracing herself and is able to manage the caseload. Ms. Salate explained that the Visiting Nurses Association (for whom she works), has also chosen to do their own contact tracing because they have learned the CTC is generally making only one call and not providing adequate guidance. She noted that the number of positive cases in West Boylston at this time is manageable, low compared to other Municipalities.

Dr. Sullivan added that as the number of positive cases rise due to increased testing, we may need to use the CTC. He indicated that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) is no longer

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recommending re-testing; instead they are endorsing a quarantine period of 14 days with minimum of three days symptom free.

Mr. Leger noted that the CTC wants feedback if the system is not working adequately. He urged Public Health nurses to report the issues of concern. He also commented on the MA mandate to wear masks in public places where social distancing is not possible, particularly when entering any building. He reported that they are getting complaints about wearing masks and the inspectors are following up.

Mr. Barrell reported that he and Ms. Lee have been responding to reports and complaints of businesses not complying with the Governor's Essential Services mandates. There have been two visits to Walmart, which indicated that they are being proactive in following the guidelines for safe operation and receptive to suggestions by Ms. VanArsdalen to add signage. Reports in some situations had been misconstrued, while others needed to be educated to improve procedures or vigilance. Ms. Lee has referred employment issues to the appropriate state agency for guidance, such as the Department of Labor Standards (DLS). Mr. Dillon offered kudos to Mr. Barrell and Ms. Lee for being on the front line in dealing with these issues.

Mr. Barrell reports that the current total count of Positive COVID-19 cases is 31. He noted that there was some confusion about a few cases who reside in West Boylston, but have a Worcester post office address at Briarwood. The Briarwood complex straddles the West Boylston/Worcester line.

Dr. Sullivan asked about the Election plan, and it was confirmed that the application to receive a mail-in ballot is available on the Town website.

- **Board of Health Chair acting Executive**

Relative to this Pandemic, Mr. Barrell reminded the Board that when the Board is unable to conveniently meet, he is authorized to act on the Board's behalf as the Executive if necessary (see M.G.L. c. 111 §30). He recently acted in this capacity when the Housing Authority requested the Board authorize an emergency directive to limit visitation at Housing Authority properties.

- **Central MA Mosquito Control Project**

Mr. Barrell updated the Board – The goal continues to be inclusion of the Central MA Mosquito Control Program (CMMCP) membership proposal on the Warrant for the Town meeting; Mr. Rucho indicated the Select Board will be discussing this in their next meeting to decide whether to include it in the Warrant. Mr. Barrell reports that the Town Administrator is still working to obtain grant funding to cover the cost of membership. She has also been speaking to the MA Department of Agricultural Resources Commissioner regarding proposed legislation for Mosquito Control to be provided by the Commonwealth to those municipalities who are not yet members of CMMCP. He noted that Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) and Worcester County Corrections own 51 percent of the Town's land. Mr. Barrell related that the Town Administrator believes a Town Meeting

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can be held in June if the Governor rescinds the order limiting gatherings to 10 people.

- **Non-commercial Farm Animal Regs**

Mr. Mercurio reports that the Agricultural Commission is satisfied with the concessions made to accommodate their recommendations in the latest draft, however after reviewing the history of complaints, they would like to see some language that limits the number of chickens relative to small lot size. They are thinking that lots under a half acre should be allowed a limited number of chickens, unless the owner received written permission from neighbors to have more. They have not yet determined what number of chickens would be appropriate. The Board confirmed that a Public Hearing is required due to the changes made since the last hearing. All are agreed that while amendments are likely after the regulations are approved, the limited chicken requirement be added before the public hearing and the new draft be made available on the Board's webpage.

- **CMRPHA Local Report**

No regular inspections were performed this month. Several complaints relative to COVID-19 were responded to by Mr. Barrell and one by Ms. VanArsdalen. Inspectors have been providing direction to the Board related to Pandemic guidelines.

- **CMRPHA Regional Report**

CMRPHA monthly update has not been made available to post. Focus of the Alliance continues to be on Pandemic concerns. Mr. Leger reported they are responding to a number of conflicts relative to people not wearing masks or complaining that their civil rights are being violated by the mandate, fueled by various conspiracy theories. He stated that COVID-19 cannot be transmitted via mosquitoes. He informed the Board that the DLS will not enforce any orders. He is updating Ms. Lee and Mr. Barrell on any changes that arise and notes that there will be additional funding available through the CARES Act.

- **Bill approval, Financial report**

The Revolving Fund Balance is \$37, 641.97. Three invoices were presented for approval – Monthly IMA with Worcester for Inspectional Services - \$1806.24, and two from the Public Health Nurse (one for April contract services - \$675.00 and one for March COVID-19 services – \$3489.98). Another was reported as already approved by Mr. Barrell, for Title 5 inspectional fee for services by Worcester DPH December 2019 to date (\$700.00).

Motion to Approve
Motion Seconded
Result

Dr. Sullivan
Mr. Dillon
Approved unanimously

- **Office report**

Title 5 project updates:

385 Lancaster – Owner (Pick-off) in process of demolishing entire structure – no update.

11 Hosmer – Work completed for new system, inspected, as-built and CoC submitted & approved

290 Goodale – Perc Test completed; contractor Webb Construction, reports Finlay is Engineer designing system

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replacement, and plan is to do the project in the spring of 2020; no update.

73 Prescott Street – failed system 2017, soil tests done and design by David Ross Assoc.; sent letter as no further action was taken. Owner submitted DSCP application 11/19. Contacted owner 03-10-2020, he is completing loan paperwork and considering option for financing with DWI installer from Fitchburg; plan is to have work done this year.

67 Prescott Street – plans submitted and approved, Mercurio contractor, to start soon.

58 Keyes Street – Septic Replacement plans approved in 2013 are being re-submitted for review and Perc test has been redone. Plan is to complete project this year.

136 Fairbanks Street – Pumping slip indicated cess pool not working properly, file showed system failed T-5 inspection in 2002, drawings done for replacement, but work never done. Letter sent, owner called. Bob to follow up. No update.

Title 5 Inspections – 311 Goodale – passed; 97 Lee Street - passed

Other Miscellaneous:

45 & 49 Central Street – new owner working with DPW on sewer hook-up, no update

53 Central Street – not yet connected to sewer, foreclosure - live auction 03-11-2020; no update.

22 Evergreen Street – Agricultural Commission to coordinate with Animal Inspector

Website – Posted COVID-19 info

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion Originator	Mr. Dillon
Motion Seconded	Dr. Sullivan
Result	Approved unanimously
Time of Adjournment	7:07 pm

Signatures

Robert J. Barrell, MPA, Chairman

John Sullivan, MD

Beverly A. Salate, RN, BSN

Thomas Dillon

Michaun Fowler, BSM

Submitted by: **Margaret Lee**
Date Submitted: **06-15-2020**

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