



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

The Board of Health Meeting Minutes

Date / Time / Location of Meeting	11-16-2021 / 6:00pm / Conference Room 120 at Town Offices
	Meeting available to view at https://www.westboylston-ma.gov/wbpa-public-access-tv
Members Present	Robert Barrell, John Sullivan, Tracy Gagnon, Michaun Fowler
Members Not Present	
Guests	none
Welcome – Call to Order	Time: 6:00 pm
Approval of Previous Minutes	October 20, 2021 meeting minutes, noted by present members to have been reviewed via email, were approved and signed.
10-20-2021 Minutes - Motion to Approve	Dr. Sullivan
Motion Seconded	Ms. Gagnon
Result	Approved unanimously.

Board of Health Candidate Interviews

The Board interviewed two applicants:

Christopher Whelan and Dr. Thomas Mullins.

The Board found both to be qualified to be Board Members and agreed to allow the Town Administrator to make the final decision, after viewing the interviews online.

- **COVID-19 Update**

Mr. Barrell invited discussion on the current mask mandate. It was noted that Worcester County is still considered High Risk (in the Red Zone) per the CDC and that counts in West Boylston are not the only consideration, as it is important to take into account what is going on in the community as a whole. While it appears mask mandates are having some positive effect, there is particular concern about the consequences of the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, due to a history of cases increasing significantly after holiday gatherings, in addition to breakthrough cases for those already vaccinated.

Dr. Sullivan said he would like to see the Elementary School vaccination numbers increase now that they are eligible for the vaccine. Ms. Fowler expressed support for the mask mandate and suggested the Board reassess at the next Board meeting.

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

December 2021 CMRPHA Regional report will be posted on the Board webpage.

Mr. Barrell noted a number of communities are re-instating mask mandates; Shrewsbury recently enacted a mandate for all schools, including parochial schools.

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Ms. Lee provided a summary of Local inspections completed since the last report by Julie VanArsdalen and Micah Blondeau. It was noted that the inspectors are following up on recent complaints related to mask violations.

- Bill approval, Financial report

Ms. Lee provided a brief summary of the most recent financial report, noting one invoice was received since our last meeting for our monthly contract with Worcester for inspectional services. She noted that applications for 2022 permits continue to come in.

- Office report

Ms. Lee provided a brief summary of currently active Title 5 work, and noted that she received the submission for the new Bethlehem Bible Church septic system, which was reviewed by Ms. VanArsdalen and approved today; Ms. Lee sent an email to the Planning Board to inform them of the approval.

Body Art Regulations clarification

In relation to our Body Art Regulations, Ms. Lee asked the Board to clarify the minimum time in hours, necessary to meet the two years noted in the regulations for a Tattoo Artist to complete apprentice requirements. Also, some practitioners in Body Art only pursue piercing and that apprentice requirement is not specified separately. After some research and consult with Mr. Barrell, it was recommended the Board specify 2000 hours for Tattoo Artists, and 500 hours for Piercing Practitioners.

Motion to Approve
Motion Seconded
Result

Dr. Sullivan
Ms. Gagnon
Approved unanimously.

- Other business

-The Senior Center Director asked for the Board's guidance around Elder Services of Worcester requiring proof of vaccination for any employee or volunteer. The Board's response at this time is that while the Board recommends vaccination, it is not mandated by state law, therefore they do not believe Elder Services can require proof of vaccination.

-The Board discussed under-resourced Boards of Health, including need for consult with Karyn Clark relative to finances involved in regionalization.

-The Board is recognizing a need for an additional part-time employee with medical background to provide certain services outside the scope of the Administrative Assistant or Inspectors, including managing MAVEN. It was noted that while the Board appreciates our current Public Health Nurse and grateful for the services she has provided, she is choosing to scale back her responsibilities. It was suggested we request Karyn Clark attend the next Board of Health meeting to discuss options.

- It was also noted that the scope of the Board of Health is vast and there is an increase in understanding that Mental Health is an increasing area of concern.

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MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion Originator	Dr. Sullivan
Motion Seconded	Ms. Gagnon
Result	Approved unanimously
Time of Adjournment	6:40 pm

Signatures

Robert J. Barrell, MPA, Chairman

John Sullivan, MD

Tracy Gagnon, MEd

Michaun Fowler, BSM

Submitted by:	Margaret Lee
Date Submitted:	12-14-2021

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