



Town of West Boylston

140 Worcester Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

The Board of Health Meeting Minutes

Date / Time / Location of Meeting	04-20-2022 / 6:00pm / Room 120, Town Offices
	Meeting available to view at https://www.westboylston-ma.gov/wbpa-public-access-tv
Members Present	Robert Barrell, Tracy Gagnon, Christopher Whelan, Thomas Mullins
Members Not Present	John Sullivan
Guests	Cherry Tangri and D.J. Wilson from Worcester Division of Public Health – Tobacco Control Commission; Brendan Keenan, Worcester Chief of Community Health; Julie VanArsdalen – Regional Public Health Specialist for CMRPHA.
Welcome – Call to Order	Time: 6:00 pm
Approval of Previous Minutes	March 09, 2022 meeting minutes, reviewed via email by members, were approved; both February and March minutes were signed by members present.
03-09-2022 Minutes - Motion to Approve	Dr. Mullins
Motion Seconded	Mr. Whelan
Result	Approved unanimously

Veterans' Thank You

Ms. Gagnon shared that she received a Thank You letter from the Veterans Home, for Valentines cards sent to veterans. The cards were created by children attending the COVID vaccine clinic, with materials Ms. Gagnon provided.

Tobacco Regulation Changes

Ms. Tangri, Tobacco Inspector for Worcester DPH, presented the proposed changes/updates to the Tobacco Sales Regulations. Mr. Wilson answered questions and clarified which changes are required and which have some options to choose from. The Board acknowledged they will have to read the document thoroughly and meet to review and determine what will work best for the Town and the vendors. Mr. Barrell said he would like to invite the Tobacco sales vendors to a meeting for discussion around these changes. In response to a question from a Board member, Mr. Wilson indicated a public hearing would not be mandated to authorize the changes, however a notice in the paper is advised and he suggested the discussion and approval of the changes be included in a regular meeting. Ms. Tangri said, once finalized, she will distribute copies of the approved regulations to the vendors, requiring they sign verification that they received it.

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New Chief of Community Health CMRPHA

Mr. Keenan attended the meeting to introduce himself as the new Chief of Community Health for the Alliance.

- **COVID-19 Update**

Mr. Barrell reported he spoke with our Public Health Nurse regarding the latest COVID infection report and provided an update that we continue to get reports of one to two COVID positive cases per day. Dr. Mullins shared his experience with COVID while traveling with his family in England; they were fully vaccinated, but there were few restrictions, and all became infected with the BA2 Variant despite taking precautions, experiencing flu-like symptoms. It was noted that this variant is highly transmissible and that it is currently spreading rapidly in MA. It was also noted that those who are vaccinated and contract it, seem to have less severe symptoms than those not vaccinated. Dr. Mullins talked about being treated with Paxlovid, a prescribed oral anti-viral used to reduce the symptom duration and severity, helping prevent the hospitalization of high-risk patients. Mr. Whelan asked if we can post info about Paxlovid on our web-page.

- **Upcoming trainings**

Mr. Barrell noted that there is a Web EOC training coming up on May 5, 2022 and also a four session (weekly) Equity training. He said he is already signed up for the Equity training, which also starts on May 5th. He asked if any of the Board members would be available to attend the WebEOC training.

He also reminded the Board that, although not yet approved, the State is proposing to require Local Boards of Health to be accredited.

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

Ms. VanArsdalen reported recent food inspections, a response to one complaint, and briefly reviewed items in the latest CMRPHA newsletter. She noted that Title V work has been slow and expects it to increase with warmer weather. She is expecting to complete a camp inspection soon for West Boylston's one regular summer camp. She also reported that Worcester Inspectors will soon be participating in training for recertification.

- **Bill approval, Financial report**

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

She noted no recent account deposits, and reported the approximate account balance.

Mr. Barrell provided an overview of grants for the Board of Health. He noted the \$14,427.00 grant received for costs associated with COVID19, primarily contract tracing through our Public Health nursing services. He also described the Federal Funds the BOH is receiving to cover the cost of our CMRPHA contract with Worcester for inspectional services (not including Title 5) over a four- year period starting Fiscal Year 2023. It was noted that any funds normally used toward payment of this contract will be saved for payment following the grant period

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and Mr. Barrell indicated the Board will likely have to re-evaluate the Fee Schedule to reflect the inspectional costs to the Town.

- Office report

Ms. Lee provided a brief update to last month’s report, noting no progress has been reported for upcoming projects, including 202 Prescott, Bethlehem Bible Church, and 45 & 49 Central Street. She also described a possible issue discovered as part of the proposed sewer hook-up for the apartment building at 34 Carol Drive and an adjacent apartment building at 104 Shrine Avenue, as there is no record that the septic tank at the Shrine Avenue building was abandoned properly when that building was hooked up to Town sewer. She indicated she is looking into this.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

Dr. Mullins reported on his recent PHEP meeting participation. He noted that Northborough was scheduled to provide 220 vaccinations over the course of one weekend. He reflected that most of the meeting was primarily a review of the previous meeting. Mr. Barrell stated that he completed a recent evaluation for PHEP online and indicated the Board needs to update the list of West Boylston town officials to be notified in the event of an emergency. He also noted that the PHEP trailer was picked up by the Alliance for repair/upgrade. He thanked the Fire Chief, Tom Welsh, for going above and beyond to prepare the trailer for pick-up.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion Originator Mr. Whelan
Motion Seconded Ms. Gagnon
Result Approved unanimously
Time of Adjournment 7:10 pm

Signatures

Robert J. Barrell, MPA, Chairman

Christopher Whelan, MEd

Not in attendance

John Sullivan, MD

Thomas J. Mullins, MD

Tracy Gagnon, MEd

Submitted by: Margaret Lee
Date Submitted: 05-11-2022

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