



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

The Board of Health Meeting Minutes

Date / Time / Location of Meeting	06-08-2022 / 6:00pm / Room 120, Town Offices
	Meeting available to view at https://www.westboylston-ma.gov/wbpa-public-access-tv
Members Present	John Sullivan, Tracy Gagnon, Christopher Whelan, Thomas Mullins
Members Not Present	Robert Barrell
Guests	Cherry Tangri, Worcester Division of Public Health – Tobacco Control Commission
Welcome – Call to Order	Time: 6:00 pm by Vice Chair Tracy Gagnon
Approval of Previous Minutes	May 11, 2022 meeting minutes, reviewed via email by members, were approved and signed.
05-11-2022 Minutes - Motion to Approve	Mr. Whelan
Motion Seconded	Dr. Mullins
Result	Approved unanimously

- **Board of Health reorganization**

It was agreed that this item is postponed until the July meeting

- **COVID-19 Update**

Dr. Sullivan reported that the latest RNA counts from Blackstone are down significantly from the previous report (600,000 to 800,000 copies as opposed to earlier counts of two million) as well as hospitalizations, currently 57 inpatients at UMass hospital, over a 50 percent decrease from the last report.

Mr. Whelan expressed concern about reports of rebound COVID symptoms in two percent of patients after use of the prescribed medication Paxlovid, wondering if the Board should post this information. Dr. Sullivan noted that this is not a common reaction and that patients seeking treatment are likely to be informed by their physician. He also noted an alternate treatment option (monoclonal antibodies) can be recommended by physicians.

Dr. Sullivan reported that based on an earlier email, he expects the Town to receive approximately 1000 to 1200 COVID test kits and recommended we inform the Select Board and ask for their input regarding distribution.

- **Tobacco Regulation Changes**

Ms. Tangri reviewed and requested clarification on some of the choices the Board had voted on at the last meeting to include in the updated Tobacco Regulations. She noted that the current

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regulations stipulate a maximum of 12 tobacco vendors in town, rather than the 10 indicated at the last meeting; Ms. Lee stated she will note this correction in the minutes. Dr. Sullivan clarified that this does not affect the Board's vote to change the limit of maximum number of Tobacco vendors to nine (9). The Board also clarified that there exist two instances where vendors are closer than the minimum 500 feet distance limit between vendors cited in the update and that if any one of them closes, any replacement business will be required to locate their business based on the new regulations. The Board also provided some clarification on the decision to use language as written in the new regulations draft regarding penalties for businesses found to have violated regulations. Ms. Tangri reported that the choices will be included in a draft which they will submit for the Board's review, vote, and signature. They will also provide the Board with recommended language summarizing the changes for publication and a letter to inform vendors. She provided options for the Board to determine an effective date and inform the vendors by letter of the updates. The Board determined the best course was to make the effective date 30 days from the date of the publication, and to inform the vendors by letter directly after the publication. Mr. Whelan detailed the motion accordingly.

Motion Originator
Motion Seconded
Result

Mr. Whelan
Dr. Sullivan
Approved unanimously

- Bill approval, Financial report

Ms. Lee provided a brief summary of the most recent financial report, noting two invoices received since our last meeting for the monthly IMA contract, and for April COVID Public Health Nurse services.

She noted recent deposits and estimated account balance of \$21,619.22. This does not include the grant funding related to COVID costs; she has asked the Town Accountant to review the accounts for these grants. She also noted that the Town will again provide the Board with \$9000.00 subsidy, available for the new fiscal year.

- Office report

Ms. Lee reported she has not received a recent CMRPHA newsletter update. She provided a brief update to last month's report, noting progress reported for 45 & 49 Central Street, old septic receptacles, found to be empty and dry, were abandoned per state requirements. She reports the septic system at 34 Carol Drive was also abandoned per state requirements; the building now connected to the Town Sewer. Based on some investigation, it was determined the Septic system at an adjacent apartment building, 104 Shrine Avenue, may not have been abandoned properly, and since there is no documentation, the same owner of 34 Carol Drive, has agreed to complete an exploratory dig to determine whether that tank was abandoned. If it is found to have been abandoned, they will document it properly, and if not, they agreed to facilitate proper abandonment. DPW and our Inspector were

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informed. The owners of 202 Prescott Street reported to Ms. VanArsdalen their plan to replace their failed septic system this summer, and provided the names of contractors they intend to use. The owners of 41 Campground Road reported their intention to replace their septic system, and a Soil test application was submitted.

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 permit inspections are in process.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion Originator	Mr. Whelan
Motion Seconded	Dr. Mullins
Result	Approved unanimously
Time of Adjournment	6:30 pm

Signatures

Not in attendance

Robert J. Barrell, MPA, Chair

John Sullivan, MD

Tracy Gagnon, MEd, Vice Chair

Christopher Whelan, MEd

Thomas F. Mullins, MD

Submitted by: Margaret Lee
Date Submitted: 07-13-2022

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