



TOWN OF BURLINGTON, MA
BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
Virtual Meeting - Cisco WebEx

TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021

Board Members Present: Ed Weiner, PhD, Chairman; David McSweeney, Vice Chairman; Maribeth Welch, and Andrea Sheehan

Board Members Absent: Dr. Wayne Saltsman, MD, PhD

Staff Members Present: Susan Lumenello, REHS/RS, CHMM, Director of Public Health; Christine Mathis, Environmental Engineer, and Sarah Courtemanche, Board of Health Admin.

Dr. Weiner called the Board of Health meeting to order at 7:00 PM. This will be a remote meeting of the Burlington Board of Health. All votes will be taken by a roll call vote.

Ms. Sheehan recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. McSweeney read a statement that due to the current State of Emergency for the COVID-19 virus the Governor has issued an Executive Order on March 12, 2020 authorizing remote meetings under M.G.L c. 30A, Section 20. This meeting is being held via Cisco WebEx as a virtual/electronic meeting. Residents can join the meeting via the WebEx meeting number or by the phone number published on the Town of Burlington website. Residents can also leave questions on the BCAT Facebook page or they can call the Board of Health office.

Ms. Sheehan introduced herself and thanked the residents for voting for her.

Approval of Minutes: March 9, 2021 and March 23, 2021

MOTION: Mr. McSweeney made a motion to approve the Board of Health minutes of March 9, 2021. The motion was seconded by Ms. Welch and approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Welch and Dr. Weiner voted in favor and Ms. Sheehan abstained from voting. (3-0-1)

MOTION: Ms. Welch made a motion to approve the Board of Health minutes of March 23, 2021. The motion was seconded by Mr. McSweeney and approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Welch and Dr. Weiner voted in favor and Ms. Sheehan abstained from voting. (3-0-1)

Citizen's Time: No one called in.

MOTION: Mr. McSweeney made a motion to take the discussion of School Department Update on COVID-19 out of order. The motion was seconded by Ms. Welch and unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Welch, Ms. Sheehan and Dr. Weiner voted in favor. (4-0-0)

School Department Update on COVID-19



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Patrick Larkin joined the meeting to discuss updates with the school due to COVID. Mr. Larkin thanked the Board for their support especially Ms. Lumenello. There has been an uptick in cases at the High School so they are remote this week. The elementary students started back full days and things are going smoothly. We are encouraging school distancing and wearing masks with the students and staff. There have been a lot of our teachers fully vaccinated and getting vaccinated so that has helped.

Mr. McSweeney asked about the planning for returning to full days. Mr. Larkin stated that the elementary students started back on April 5th. The middle school students are scheduled to come back for full days on April 26th and they are looking to start High School back on May 3rd even though the State has not set that date yet. They sent out a survey to elementary school parents and out of the 400 who are remote, 40 have come back to their home school for full time. The State allows for 3' for social distance with masks but we are still closer to 6' and if it is less than 6' in the classrooms, then those students are brought to another space for lunch so they can maintain the 6' distance without masks. This may include outside during nice weather. When the middle school comes back full time, they will have combined cohorts. Mr. McSweeney thanked the School Administration for all their efforts and reiterated that we are here to help. Mr. Larkin stated that he wanted to publicly apologize to Ms. Lumenello for not notifying her ahead of time that the High School was going full remote.

Ms. Welch asked when the middle school and high school return to full remote, is the full remote option still available. Mr. Larkin replied yes.

Dr. Weiner asked how are high school sports handled. Mr. Larkin stated that every sport has its own challenges. They are reiterating to the coaches and Athletic Directors that the kids should have masks and distance where possible. They are watching the trends and continue to remind the students how we got here.

Ms. Lumenello thanked Mr. Larkin for all the work he does and getting us the contact tracing so quickly.

Chairman's Report:

Dr. Weiner stated that it has been over a year since we started remote meetings and preparing and chairing remote meetings is not easy and we are all in this together. There has been an upsurge in COVID-19 and urged people to practice the safe protocols that we have been doing. Dr. Weiner welcomed new member Ms. Sheehan to the Board. Dr. Weiner thanks all Board members, Staff and BCAT for all their hard work during this time.

Dr. Weiner stated that the Town lost a great community member when Eugene "Terry" McSweeney passed away. He spent 37 years as a member of the Board of Health and always wanted to keep everyone safe. He was an advocate to all. We offer our sincerest condolences to David McSweeney and the entire family. Dr. Weiner requested a moment of silence.

Permits:

- *8 Edgemont Ave, Keeping of Chickens (3)*



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Pierre Brennecke appeared for the keeping of chickens on his property. Mr. Brennecke stated that they have a garden and he would like to teach his children how to take care of chickens and where food comes from. They are only asking for 3 hens. Dr. Weiner stated that roosters are not allowed.

Ms. Lumenello stated that Samantha Hardy visited the site and has no issues with this permit.

Mr. McSweeney asked if there are any abutters on the call or has the office received any calls. Ms. Lumenello replied that we have not received any calls.

There were no questions from the audience.

MOTION: Ms. Welch made a motion to approve the keeping of 3 chickens at 8 Edgemont Ave. The motion was seconded by Mr. McSweeney and unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Sheehan, Ms. Welch and Dr. Weiner voted in favor. (4-0-0)

Discussion:

● ***Reorganization of the Board of Health***

Dr. Weiner stated that he is going to postpone the reorganization until there is a full board at the next meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Welch made a motion to postpone the reorganization of the Board of Health until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. McSweeney and unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Sheehan, Ms. Welch and Dr. Weiner voted in favor. (4-0-0)

Staff Reports

Environmental Engineer

Ms. Mathis presented her report.

- A COVID safe Household Hazardous Waste Day is scheduled for May 1st at the Francis Wyman School. The information is up on the website.
- Continued support on COVID issues such as contact tracing for positive employees within Burlington and complaints, which include mostly lack of masks.

Ms. Welch asked what the compliance check was for. Ms. Mathis stated that there was a non-compliance with sump pump discharge. An order letter and fine was issued. This was for a follow up inspection and the fine was paid.

Dr. Weiner stated that he can't believe there are still septic tanks out there that have not been abandoned. Ms. Mathis stated that this property was connected to sewer in 1972 and they were digging for a patio and found the septic tank. This will be decommissioned this week. Dr. Weiner asked for an explanation of what a sub-slab depressurization system does. Ms. Mathis stated that it is an active vapor intrusion system. This can include the vapor barrier for groundwater contamination. This is similar to a radon system in a home. A



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recent installation was done at Convenient MD. Dr. Weiner asked if the system is reviewed by staff. Ms. Mathis replied yes.

MOTION: Ms. Welch moved to approve the Environmental Engineer's report. The motion was seconded by Mr. McSweeney and unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Sheehan, Ms. Welch and Dr. Weiner voted in favor. (4-0-0)

Director of Public Health

Dr. Weiner stated that the Director's report will include the Supervisory Nurse, Health Agent and Associate Health Inspector's report. Ms. Lumenello stated that as you can see by the staff reports, we are all continuing our normal activities as well as handling COVID issues. The nurse is also handling a TB case.

Ms. Lumenello presented her report:

- The second doses for the senior vaccines issued with the Housing Authority will be done on April 15th. This is the Moderna vaccine. There has been a pause on issuance of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine and if residents have received this vaccine and have questions, they should call their providers.

Ms. Lumenello presented the FAQ on close contacts because there have been a lot of calls on if people are considered a close contact and how long quarantine is.

Mr. McSweeney asked if there were any concerns raised when you spoke with the Fire Chief regarding Northeastern University. Ms. Lumenello stated that she wanted to make sure the Fire Chief was aware of the lab at Northeastern and he is going to investigate if 911 is dialed, who gets called Burlington or Woburn. Ms. Mathis stated that she received the list of chemicals late last week from Northeastern and she will share them with the Fire Chief. They have an address of 151 South Bedford Street, Burlington so has asked Northeastern to look into the 911 situation also. Mr. McSweeney stated that he will rely on staff to ensure that any concerns are raised to the appropriate people. Dr. Weiner stated that perhaps we should speak with Town Counsel on the jurisdiction and authority of this building be with Burlington, not Woburn. We need to protect our Fire Department. Ms. Lumenello stated that she will contact Town Counsel.

Ms. Welch asked what is the status with the new Assistant Director's position. Ms. Lumenello stated that the subcommittee consisting of herself, Dr. Weiner and Mr. McSweeney has all the resumes and we should meet to discuss them and see if there are any candidates they would like to interview.

Dr. Weiner asked what the status was for reopening Town buildings. Ms. Lumenello stated that they have met on that and it was decided to hold off on re-opening the buildings. Staff is available for appointments and there are drop boxes.

MOTION: Mr. McSweeney moved to approve the Director of Public Health report which included Supervisory Nurse, Health Agent and Associate Health Inspector's reports. The motion was seconded by Ms. Welch and unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Sheehan, Ms. Welch and Dr. Weiner voted in favor. (4-0-0)



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Mr. McSweeney appreciated the kind words, thoughts and sentiments regarding his dad. He loved the Town of Burlington and being a member of the Board of Health. He never wanted any recognition or accolades, he just wanted to help.

Dr. Weiner reminded residents to remain diligent and wash their hands, wear their masks and social distance.

Adjourn

MOTION: Ms. Welch moved to adjourn the Board of Health meeting at 7:58 PM. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sheehan unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Sheehan, Ms. Welch and Dr. Weiner voted in favor. (4-0-0)

*Respectfully Submitted by Dawn Cathcart,
Recording Clerk*



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DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT MEETING – TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021

Agenda

Approval of Minutes: March 9, 2021 and March 23, 2021

Citizen's Time: None

Chairman's Report: None

Permits:

- **8 Edgemont Ave, Keeping of Chickens (3)** – 4/13/21 Memo from S. Hardy with pictures, 3/21/21 Email from P. Brennecke, Permit Application

Discussion:

- **School Department Update on COVID-19** – None
- **Reorganization of the Board of Health** – None

Staff Reports: Environmental Engineer's Report and Director of Public Health's Report (Includes Supervisory Nurse, Health Agent and Associate Health Inspector's reports)