



TOWN OF BURLINGTON, MA
BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
Main Meeting Room, Town Hall

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2020

Board Members Present: Ed Weiner, PhD, Chairman; David McSweeney, Vice Chairman; Dr. Wayne Saltsman, MD, PhD; and Libby Walendziewicz, RN, MSN

Board Members Not Present: Maribeth Welch

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 7:07 PM. This will be a remote meeting of the Burlington Board of Health. All votes will be taken by a roll call vote.

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. Residences can also leave questions on the BCAT Facebook page or they can call the Board of Health office.

Ms. Walendziewicz recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: April 14, 2020 and April 28, 2020

MOTION: Dr. Saltsman moved to approve the Board of Health minutes of April 14, 2020 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walendziewicz and unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Walendziewicz, Dr. Saltsman and Dr. Weiner voted in favor. (4-0-0)

MOTION: Ms. Walendziewicz moved to approve the Board of Health minutes of April 28, 2020 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. McSweeney and unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Walendziewicz, Dr. Saltsman and Dr. Weiner voted in favor. (4-0-0)

Citizen's Time: No one called in.

Chairman's Report:

Dr. Weiner thanked the Burlington MRC and the Board of Health staff and Board members. Dr. Weiner also thanked BCAT and especially Rich Hauss, Jen Dodge and the Board of Directors of BCAT. Dr. Weiner stated that he and Ms. Lumenello had an interview with BCAT and it was streaming today. Dr. Weiner thanked Dr. Saltsman for the weekly BCAT COVID-19 updates.

Subcommittee Reports:



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Dr. Weiner stated that next week he, Dr. Saltsman and Ms. Lumenello will meet with the Town Clerk to discuss procedures for the upcoming Town Election and Town Meeting. Dr. Weiner also met with Representative Ken Gordon to discuss possible legislation that will affect Town Meeting and the Town Election.

Applications:

● **40 Locust Street, Keeping of Animals – 6 Chickens**

Jilliane and Paul Rabazzi appeared for a permit for Keeping of Animals at 40 Locust Street.

Ms. Lumenello stated that Ms. Rabazzi has been in contact with Ms. Hardy and everything that has been required has been submitted. Ms. Hardy will do an inspection later after the coop is installed. There is no reason not to approve.

Dr. Weiner asked why you want chickens. Ms. Rabazzi replied that she would like fresh eggs and it should be fun to have 6 chickens. Ms. Rabazzi added that she has spoken with all her neighbors prior to filing the application and they had no problem with the chickens.

There were no questions from the audience.

MOTION: Mr. McSweeney moved to grant the permit for the keeping of 6 chickens at 40 Locust Street as submitted. The motion was seconded by Dr. Saltsman and unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Walendziewicz, Dr. Saltsman and Dr. Weiner voted in favor. (4-0-0)

Ms. Rabazzi stated that as soon as the coop is built she will call the office. Ms. Lumenello replied that would be great and the permit will be sent in the mail.

MOTION: Ms. Walendziewicz moved to discuss Staff Reports first. The motion was seconded by Mr. McSweeney and unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Walendziewicz, Dr. Saltsman and Dr. Weiner voted in favor. (4-0-0)

Staff Reports

Environmental Engineer

Ms. Mathis presented her report:

- Working with the Department of Labor and Standards on cease and desist orders for businesses that are open that shouldn't be.
- Investigation of COVID-19 complaints including essential businesses not practicing social distances, and people not wearing masks. Investigating employee complaints that have been asked to return to work. She has provided a phone number for the Department of Labor and Standards and has contacted the employers regarding what to do with social distancing including limiting the number of employees, relocating desk locations, 1 way hallways, etc.



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- Inspections of most of the grocery stores and the 2 CVS locations mostly due to customer calls and complaints. They all are working very hard and have instituted 1-way aisles, 6' distance markings, plexiglass, closing every other registers, employee masks, and customer counts.

Mr. Weiner asked what the status of Household Hazardous Waste Day. Ms. Mathis stated that they are hoping that they can have one in the fall but they will have to see.

Mr. Weiner stated that there has been helicopter spraying for mosquitoes. Ms. Mathis replied yes, last week.

Mr. McSweeney asked what the drainage change for Dartmouth Road was. Ms. Mathis stated that the grade was increased behind 3 & 5 Dartmouth Road and there were outfall issues. The Planning Board hired a 3rd party engineering group for review. The applicant has proposed adding a small infiltration system, a swale and curbing at 3 Dartmouth Road. The 3rd party as agreed with the changes. They are before the Planning Board for a Minor Engineering Change and the Planning Board is keeping in touch with the neighbors.

MOTION: Dr. Saltsman 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. Walendziewicz, Dr. Saltsman, and Dr. Weiner voted in favor. (4-0-0)

Director of Public Health

Ms. Lumenello presented her report:

- The Director's report also includes reports from the Health Agent, Supervisory Nurse and Associate Health Inspector.
- The majority of duties are responding to COVID-19. The contact tracing has been transitioned to CTC. We are keeping track of the cases we give the CTC but we are keeping some. The CTC is not doing tracing on assisted living cases. There are some glitches with the software but they are keeping in contact through email.
- They have downsized using the MRC nurses and are now only using two.

Mr. McSweeney asked how the restaurants are being handled that want to sell groceries. Ms. Lumenello stated that there is a simple application on the website. The Health Agent reviews it, contacts them and then approves it. There are 3 to 4 restaurants who have applied.

Dr. Weiner stated that the Supervisory Nurse is also tracking other communicable diseases other than COVID-19.

MOTION: Dr. Saltsman moved to approve the Director of Public Health's report. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walendziewicz and unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Walendziewicz, Dr. Saltsman, and Dr. Weiner voted in favor. (4-0-0)

Discussions:

- **Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update**



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Dr. Saltsman stated that he has been giving weekly updates on BCAT for 8 weeks. The BCAT staff has been very helpful with his 5 minute weekly segment. The information he gives is from the Mass DPH dashboard and Wall Street Journal for US information. We are flattening the curve but as we plan to reopen there were 18,000-22,000 new cases in the US. Dr. Saltsman stated that is less than 7% of all Massachusetts residents have been tested. He is still concerned with the older adults especially in long term care facilities. They account for 60% of the deaths in Massachusetts. The Board has been working with the Town to balance the public health care vs. economic need. Our new normal will not be normal and he understands the frustration from business owners. If we do not maintain social distancing measures, we could have a resurgence in COVID-19 in July and August. In Wuhan, China they are testing all 11.5 Million residents because of resurgence there. Dr. Saltsman stated that there are 8 vaccines under construction but none have been proven. They are also studying the effects of Vitamin D. Dr. Saltsman stated that what we can do is hand wash, cleaning surfaces frequently, cover your cough and sneeze, wearing masks in public and maintain social distancing.

Dr. Weiner asked what the status of the masks are. Ms. Lumenello stated that volunteers are making masks. We have been delivering masks to residents in need. There is a limit of 2 masks per address delivered to the mailbox. She doesn't have an actual count but it is estimated that about 300-400 masks have gone out. They have also received some donations of masks from residents.

Dr. Saltsman stated that there are two types of testing. One checks to see if you currently have the virus and the other tests to see if you had the virus. The antibody testing checks to see if the virus had been present. They are not accurate and there is nothing that they can do with the information they get.

Ms. Lumenello stated that they will wait for the Governor's report to start to get the Town and businesses open. Mr. McSweeney stated that the staff is doing a phenomenal job and as we start to reopen are we prepared. Ms. Lumenello stated that we have already had conversations within the Town on how to work and we need to figure out how to get the Mall open and the individual stores. We will need to look at the occupancy of each store. The restaurants may want to look at expanding to outside so we have been looking at the food code but we need to wait for the Governor's report.

Ms. Walendziewicz stated that there are a lot of unknowns and we have never seen a virus like this.

Dr. Weiner asked if we have enough staff to handle this. There are 236 restaurants, hundreds of office spaces and bio-tech spaces. We need to have an innovative plan. Residents can call the Board of Health offices with questions or go to the website. Dr. Weiner ended with be safe, be smart and be well.

Adjourn

MOTION: Dr. Saltsman moved to adjourn the Board of Health meeting at 8:02 PM. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walendziewicz and unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Walendziewicz, Dr. Saltsman, 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, MAY 12, 2020

Agenda

Chairman's Report: None

Subcommittee Reports: None

Applications:

- **40 Locust Street, Keeping of Animals – 6 Chickens:** Application including plot plan and manure, turf and feed management plan; Memo from S. Hardy dated 4/28/20;

Discussion:

- **Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response Actions:** None

Staff Reports: Environmental Engineer's Report; Director of Public Health's Report