



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

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 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; 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. Walendziewicz 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. Residences can also leave questions on the BCAT Facebook page or they can call the Board of Health office.

Approval of Minutes: May 12, 2020

MOTION: Dr. Saltsman moved to approve the Board of Health minutes of May 12, 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 stated that we are still facing new challenges every day and he is proud of the way the Board of Health is responding to those challenges. Dr. Weiner wanted to thank the Board of Health members, the Staff and the volunteers of the MRC for their commitment in these trying times. Dr. Weiner also wanted to thank Paul Sagarino and Ms. Lumenello for their continued leadership and Ms. Warfield for all the hard work she has done preparing for the Town elections and Town Meeting. Dr. Weiner also wanted to thank Dr. Saltsman for keeping the community up to date on the COVID-19 with his presentation every week and having just done his 12th report.

Subcommittee Reports:



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- **Town Election Meeting Minutes 5/20/20**

Dr. Weiner stated the Town Election subcommittee meeting met and they will discuss this under the Discussion section of the agenda.

Applications:

- **5 Arlington Road, Keeping of Animals – 6 Chickens**

Thomas Larhzaoui appeared for a Keeping of Animals at 5 Arlington Road.

Ms. Lumenello stated that Ms. Hardy inspected the site and coops last week. They meet all the requirements and they recommend approving the application.

Mr. McSweeney asked if there were any comments from abutters. Ms. Lumenello replied that all abutters were notified and they have not received any comments or questions.

There were no questions from the audience.

MOTION: Dr. Saltsman moved to grant the permit for the keeping of 6 chickens at 5 Arlington Road 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)

Discussions:

- **Town Election with Burlington's Town Clerk – Amy Warfield**

Amy Warfield joined the discussion on how the Town Election and Town Meeting will be handled. Ms. Lumenello stated that the subcommittee of Dr. Weiner, Dr. Saltsman, Ms. Warfield and herself met to discuss the plans for the Town Election. The precautions checklist was sent to Ms. Warfield but the Board of Health has no role in approving the Town Election but is here to advise.

Ms. Warfield stated that the Town Election will be held in the two gyms at the High School. The rubber floor gym will have 4 precincts and the wooden floor gym will have 3 precincts. They have sent out a diagram showing that there will be ample room. There will be markers on the floor and 3 voting booths per precinct. There will be a hold spot that residents will be stopped at until a booth is available. On the outside of the gym, there will be poll workers to point residents to the correct precinct and filter people in as space becomes available. There will be one police officer in each gym, two officers outside to help with the flow of people and one officer directing traffic.

Dr. Weiner asked if there will be a custodian onsite to clean the bathrooms. Ms. Warfield replied yes.

Dr. Saltsman stated that the subcommittee met and we believe came up with a sound plan to protect the citizens during the election process. Dr. Saltsman stated that poll workers will have been given the procedures and the residents need to adhere to what is told to them by the poll workers and be patient.



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Ms. Lumenello asked if the wait line could go the other way so the people coming out of the gym do not conflict with the people waiting in line. She is concerned with the cross traffic. Ms. Warfield stated that the only issue with that is that there is no sidewalk along the wooden floor gym but she could look at it.

Mr. McSweeney thanked Ms. Warfield for all the hard work that has gone into pulling this together but asked what happens if a resident is not comfortable with the voting environment. Ms. Warfield stated that they have a standalone booth that is used for provisional ballots that can be used. If that is the case, a warden will place the ballot in the booth and after the resident has voted, the warden will take the ballot to the counter.

Dr. Weiner stated that if residents can't wear masks they should vote early but if they show up at the High School what happens. Ms. Warfield stated that we are holding people to the 6' social distance and workers are all wearing masks and gloves. They may use the provisional ballot booth or be given a specific time. Dr. Weiner stated that normally the Town election is a very social time and residents need to understand that this is not the time to socialize. Ms. Warfield stated that workers have been given the guidelines and the police will be there to keep the lines moving.

- **Town Meeting with Burlington's Town Clerk – Amy Warfield**

Town Moderator William Beyer and John Porter, High School AV joined the meeting to discuss proposed procedures for Town Meeting. Ms. Lumenello stated that the Governor's Order #3 does not apply to legislative bodies. Ms. Lumenello stated that the proposal is to have Town Meeting outside under a tent, which makes it an enclosed space. The Board of Health needs to decide if the plan for Town Meeting is dangerous to public health. Because of the provisions that have been made, it is her opinion that it is not.

Dr. Weiner stated he had a few questions: Will there be bathrooms and how will they be cleaned; Where will the department heads be located; How will people speak at the microphones; Where will visitors sit. Ms. Warfield stated that they are looking at renting port-a-potties or they may be able to use the facilities at the site. Ms. Lumenello stated that there should be provisions for hand washing. The department heads speaking on the budget will be at the tables in the middle of the tent. The microphones will be on stands and they will not be touched. All visitors will be outside the tent.

Ms. Walendziewicz asked how the people in Row 1 will get out and speak. Mr. Beyer stated that they will exit through the tent and there will be microphones outside.

Dr. Saltsman stated that there needs to be purposeful seating and perhaps look at assigned seats. Mr. Beyer stated that as people come in, they will be seated row by row. Ms. Warfield stated that there will be 3 sign in stations. They will ask Town Meeting members to wear their masks until they get seated and if they get up to speak. Dr. Saltsman agreed, they don't need to wear the masks at their seats. The Governor's order is that masks are required if you can't comply with the 6' distance or if a person has a medical condition. Ms. Warfield stated that she will be sending out emails to all Town Meeting members. Dr. Weiner urged Ms. Warfield to check with Town Counsel of what can be asked of Town Meeting members.

Ms. Lumenello asked how high the tent would be. Mr. Porter replied that it is about 8' to 10' off the ground and there will be no sides. The poles can be 30' off the ground and aids in air flow. Dr. Weiner asked what time the Town Meeting will be held. Mr. Beyer stated that is still to be determined. If it is afternoon on a



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Saturday we wanted the tent to protect people from the sun on a Saturday. If it is at night then perhaps the tent is not needed. Ms. Walendziewicz stated that if it is at dusk then there is an issue with mosquitoes.

MOTION: Dr. Saltsman moved to approve the process and plan for Town Meeting as outlined by the Town Clerk and Town Moderator. 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)

Mr. Beyer thanked the Board of Health for all their help. Ms. Warfield also thanked the Board of Health for their support with the election and Town Meeting.

- **Reorganization of the Board of Health**

MOTION: Dr. Saltsman moved to nominate Dr. Ed Weiner to continue as Chairman. 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)

Dr. Saltsman stated that it has been a privilege to have Dr. Weiner as Chairman and appreciate his leadership. Mr. McSweeney agreed, Dr. Weiner has been a leader of this Board as well in the Town and he has learned a lot from him.

MOTION: Dr. Saltsman moved to nominate David McSweeney to continue as Vice Chairman. 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)

Dr. Saltsman stated that Mr. McSweeney has done a great job on all the subcommittees he has been on and has brought an energy to this Board. Dr. Weiner echoed the comments and thanked Mr. McSweeney for all his hard work.

- **Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response & Updates**

Ms. Lumenello stated that she has been working on the reopening guidance. Currently we are in Phase I and if things go well, Phase II should start the second week of June. Non-essential offices can open at 25% occupancy. She has continued with the conference calls with DPH and MAVEN and they hopefully will be getting guidelines from the Governor's office for Phase II.

Dr. Saltsman stated that he monitors the DPH dashboard and we still have a significant number of positives but there have been 0 deaths in the nursing homes in the last few days. Dr. Saltsman still urged the community to take this seriously. We still need to hand wash, social distance, wear masks in public and isolate when sick.

Staff Reports

Environmental Engineer

Ms. Mathis is not present tonight.



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MOTION: Ms. Walendziewicz moved to postpone the Environmental Engineer's report. 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)

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 Board of Health, Department of Labor and Department of Public Health are responsible for enforcement on the Governor's orders. This is a complaint based system, so residents should email the Board with any complaints. Each complaint is investigated.
- The MRC volunteers are still making masks. They have given out hundreds and it usually takes a week or two to fill the requests. The number of requests has gone down.

Dr. Saltsman stated that he received a complaint that grocery workers were not wearing masks. All workers should be wearing masks unless there is a medical reason.

Dr. Weiner stated that as a result of the pandemic, the appeal period for permits does not start until the State of Emergency is over.

MOTION: Mr. McSweeney moved to approve the Director of Public Health's report. 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)

Dr. Wiener reminded residents that the next meeting will be June 23rd.

Dr. Saltsman reminded residents to wash their hands and stay safe.

Adjourn

MOTION: Ms. Walendziewicz moved to adjourn the Board of Health meeting at 8:20 PM. 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)

Respectfully Submitted by Dawn Cathcart,
Recording Clerk

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT MEETING – TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2020

Agenda

Approval of Minutes: May 12, 2020 Minutes



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Citizen's Time: None

Chairman's Report: None

Subcommittee Reports: Town Election Meeting Minutes 5/20/20

Applications:

- **5 Arlington Road, Keeping of Animals – 6 Chickens:** Application including pictures of chicken coop; Memo from S. Hardy dated 5/7/20

Discussion:

- **Town Election with Burlington's Town Clerk, Amy Warfield:** Voting Guidelines 5/6/20, Burlington High School Proposed Layout; Town Meeting Guidelines; MAHB COVID-19 The Role of the Board of Health in the Postponement/Continuance of Town Meeting 5/12/20; Email between A. Warfield and Lisa Mead, Town Counsel; COVID-19 Order #13, Proposed Meeting Layout for Town Meeting
- **Reorganization of the Board of Health:** None
- **Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response Actions:** None

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