



TOWN OF BURLINGTON, MA
BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES

Town Hall Main Hearing Room

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2021

Board Members Present: Ed Weiner, PhD, Chairman; David McSweeney, Vice Chairman; and Dr. Wayne Saltsman, MD, PhD (Remote Access); and Andrea Sheehan

Board Members Absent: Maribeth Welch

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

Dr. Weiner called the Board of Health meeting to order at 7:01 PM. This is an in-person meeting at the Town Hall Main Hearing Room but will have a remote option.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes: None

Citizen's Time: There were no citizen's coming forward.

Chairman's Report:

Dr. Weiner thanked staff, board members and BCAT staff for all their hard work over this past year and half. COVID-19 is still here and he believes it will be with us for a long time. The vaccine is a personal choice but recommends it for all eligible people to keep everyone safe.

Dr. Weiner asked that we take the school update out of order.

MOTION: Dr. Saltsman moved to take School Update – COVID-19 Precaution discussion out of order. The motion was seconded by Mr. McSweeney and unanimously voted 4-0-0.

Discussion

School Update – COVID-19 Precautions

Assistant Superintendent Patrick Larkin and Superintendent Dr. Eric Conti appeared for a school update. Ms. Lumenello stated that DESE and DPH issued a joint memo today that masks will be required for all students in Massachusetts.

Mr. Larkin stated that last year, we had about 25% of our students remotely learning. This year everyone will be back. We have updated our protocols, improved air quality and the masks will help. Masks will be required on the buses and masks will be made available if a student needs one. There is a concern because



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there is conflicting information between DPH and DESE. The updated protocols went out to all the principals.

Mr. McSweeney asked if remote learning is an option. Mr. Larkin replied no, it is not allowed which is unreasonable because if there is an outbreak in one classroom, remote learning would have been an option but the Department of Education stated that remote learning will not be counted. Ms. Lumenello stated that some of the confusion is with what is considered a close contact. We use 6' but the schools use 3'. Mr. Larkin stated that we will need to know who is within 6' of a positive contact for tracing.

Dr. Weiner stated that this will be a true collaborative between the School Department and Health Department. Dr. Weiner asked if the school has adopted the Test and Return policy and is it confusing. Mr. Larkin stated that we signed up with the State but we need to get trained before any implementation can occur.

Dr. Saltsman stated that there have been a number of studies in regards to impacts to schools and they have shown that schools are not the primary transmission of COVID-19 but they do mirror what is happening in the community. Dr. Saltsman asked if all teachers are required to be vaccinated. Mr. Larkin replied no, but we are looking that this might be a condition of employment.

Dr. Elizabeth Monaco – Dr. Monaco stated that she is a physician and also a mother of 4 children in the Burlington School District. She is thrilled that masks are required in school and we should consider a town-wide indoor mask mandate to keep the kids and everyone safe.

Applications

Application for Site Plan Approval – 207 Cambridge Street, Federal Investment Trust

Attorney Thomas Murphy, Moe Santangelo, Property Manager and Fred Russell appeared for the Site Plan Approval at 307 Cambridge Street.

Ms. Mathis stated that we have received many icing complaints at this property due to drainage coming down the hill and ponding on this property and in the road. A drainage design was approved about 2 years ago but never completed. The Site Plan public hearing opened with the Planning Board last Thursday. They are proposing a detention basin with an underground pipe that leads to an existing catch basin in Cambridge Street. The Mass DOT approval for this work has expired but they will issue an extension when the Site Plan is approved.

Mr. Russell stated that MassDOT wants to wait to see if the Town requires anything prior to them issuing an extension. This was designed about a year and half ago and they have updated the plan detail to include the dumpster locations, HVAC and concrete pads. On the right side, they need to provide access to the doors. They are proposing adding a gravel path and they would need to relocate the infiltration system closer to the slope. It will still function the same as in the original location.

Attorney Murphy stated that there is no catch basin on Woodcrest Avenue and the water sheet flows down the hill onto our property then onto Cambridge Street. One of the abutters stated at the Planning Board



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meeting that the water is eroding the road at the end of Woodcrest Avenue. They agreed with all the proposed conditions.

Mr. McSweeney stated he is glad this is being addressed due to the icing that occurs in the winter and asked if there will be any changes to the exterior. Attorney Murphy stated that there will be changes to the exterior of the building but only minor changes to the site. There will be no grade changes. They need to address the dumpster locations, additional green space and parking delineation. They have just opened with the Planning Board.

Dr. Weiner asked if there will be a fence around the depression and if not, the applicant should check with the police to see if one is required. Dr. Weiner asked how long the water remain in the depression. Mr. Russell replied 68 hours during extreme conditions in a rainy spring. Dr. Weiner stated that he is concerned with water staying that long for safety reasons and mosquitos. Ms. Mathis stated that she thought it would drain quicker. Mr. Russell stated that it is only 2 ½' of the bottom and only holds 1,000 gallons. Ms. Lumenello stated that the average breeding time for mosquitos is 10-14 days.

There were no questions from the audience.

MOTION: Mr. McSweeney moved to approve the Site Plan for 207 Cambridge Street with the proposed conditions. The motion was seconded by Dr. Saltsman and unanimously voted 4-0-0.

Permits

1 Liberty Avenue, Keeping of 6 Chickens

Warren Chia and Lin Chia appeared for a request to keep 6 chickens at their home at 1 Liberty Avenue.

Ms. Lumenello stated that Ms. Hardy did a site inspection and there were no concerns. All abutters were notified and there have been no calls to the office.

Ms. Chia stated that they want the chicken for eggs. They have a half acre and it is fenced in. They are planning to compost the manure in a bin.

Dr. Weiner stated that they cannot have roosters.

There were no questions from the audience.

MOTION: Ms. Sheehan moved to approve the keeping of 6 chickens at 1 Liberty Avenue. The motion was seconded by Dr. Saltsman and unanimously voted 4-0-0.

Discussion

COVID-19 & Facial Covering Advisories & Mandates

Ms. Lumenello stated that the CDC has stated that masks should be worn inside in areas with high migration rates. The DPH regulations conflict with this because it states that masks are not needed inside because of



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the high vaccination rate. Dr. Weiner stated that the problem is with enforcement. Dr. Weiner asked what is the protocol in Town buildings? Whose responsibility is it?

Ms. Sheehan asked how Burlington compares with other towns in active cases. Ms. Lumenello stated that DPH has a data tracker that looks at every town with different data metrics. She is not sure which metrics the Towns that issued an inside mask mandate. Some of the towns have said masks are required in public places, others are in specific areas, i.e., restaurants, gyms, etc.

Dr. Saltsman stated that he trusts the chair of the CDC but feels an advisory for masks indoor right now is correct but we can talk about a mandate after more discussions and if it is warranted.

Mr. McSweeney stated that it is this Board's job to discuss these things. He agrees that advisory is warranted but not a mandate at this point. Enforcement is huge and we should continue discussions.

Dr. Weiner stated that he would like to establish a sub-committee of himself and Dr. Saltsman to continue to discuss and monitor this issue. He would like to keep this on the agenda throughout October and added that this is everyone's responsibility. Dr. Saltsman agreed and stated that we need the community to be involved and give us feedback so we can make an educated decision.

Deborah Glancy – Ms. Glancy stated that we need more education first before a decision is made. Things on social media are not always facts. Dr. Saltsman agreed that education is the way to go. He is available to speak with any organization but the citizens need to be responsible for their own actions and safety.

Staff Reports

Environmental Engineer

Ms. Mathis presented her report.

- Household Hazardous Waste Day will be September 18, 2021 from 8:30 AM to Noon at the Francis Wyman school.

Dr. Saltsman drove by the Wendy's site after a rain storm and it was awful. Ms. Lumenello stated that a nuisance letter was sent to the owner that the drainage work did not work. They are blaming the Town so this was forwarded to Town Counsel. Mr. McSweeney stated that they should come before the Board if this is not a safe situation.

MOTION: Dr. Saltsman moved to approve the Environmental Engineer report. The motion was seconded by Mr. McSweeney and unanimously voted 4-0-0.

Director of Public Health

Ms. Lumenello presented her report which included the Supervisory Nurse, Health Agent and Associate Health Inspector.

- The Flu Clinic will be October 16th at the High School.



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Dr. Weiner asked what the issue was with LaCascia's Bakery sewer. Ms. Lumenello stated that there was a large blockage on the line due to an issue with a piece of equipment. The equipment has been replaced. Dr. Weiner asked how we are involved with the illegal apartment at 7 Town Line Road. Ms. Lumenello stated that we don't always get involved with illegal apartments but sometimes the tenant calls in complaints in regards to the Housing Code. They usually go with the Building Department in these cases.

Dr. Saltsman stated that the CDC has changed their guidance and there is no longer a wait between a COVID and Flu vaccine. Ms. Lumenello stated that the software they are now using will allow residents to sign up ahead of time. They will be issued a time slot for the flu vaccine. They have new MRC volunteers and there will be 16 dispensing lines and a condensed time frame. Dr. Saltsman stated that it is crucial to get the flu vaccine, especially this year. Ms. Lumenello added that the issue with the Code RED notification should be fixed, so we will verify during the next drill.

MOTION: Mr. McSweeney moved to approve the Director of Public Health report. The motion was seconded by Dr. Saltsman and unanimously voted 4-0-0.

Adjourn

MOTION: Ms. Sheehan moved to adjourn the Board of Health regular meeting at 8:24 PM. The motion was seconded by Dr. Saltsman and unanimously voted 4-0-0.

*Respectfully Submitted by Dawn McDowell,
Recording Clerk*



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DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT MEETING – TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2021

Agenda

Approval of Minutes: None

Citizen's Time: None

Chairman's Report: None

Applications:

- *Application for Site Plan Approval -207 Cambridge Street, Federal Investment Trust*– 8/24/21 Memo from C. Mathis, 4/19/21 Site Plan from F. Russell, PE, 7/6/21 Application

Permits:

- *1 Liberty Avenue – Keeping of 6 Chickens* – 8/24/21 Memo from S. Hardy including pictures

Discussion:

- *COVID-19 & Facial Covering Advisories & Mandates* – 7/28/21 CDC Interim Public Health Recommendation for Fully Vaccinated People, 7/30/21 Mass.Gov MDPH Press Release – Update & Face Covering Advisory
- *School Update – COVID-19 Precautions* – 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)