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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2020

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

Board Members Not Present: None

Staff Members Present: Susan Lumenello, REHS/RS, CHMM, Director of Public Health; Christine Mathis, Environmental Engineer, Chris Paulik, Supervisory Nurse; and Samantha Hardy, Associate Health Inspector

Dr. Weiner called the Board of Health meeting to order at 7:05 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: None

Citizen's Time: No one called in.

Chairman's Report:

Dr. Weiner thanked the staff of BCAT for navigating all of these meetings. Dr. Weiner stated that there are only 2 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Burlington currently and our positivity rate is 0.85%. In these difficult times, our staff continues to perform all of their duties and more and thanked them for their dedication. Dr. Weiner also thanked the High School staff for having us do a walk-through.

Subcommittee Reports:

There are no subcommittee reports.

Applications:

- *Application for a Definitive Subdivision – 101 Francis Wyman Road*

Ed Champy appeared for the application of 101 Francis Wyman Road.



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Ms. Mathis stated that this subdivision was before the Board in 2016. The Special Permit was modified for 101 Francis Wyman Road as part of a larger subdivision called General Walker Estates. It called for demolishing the small existing house and building 2 new houses. The ZBA approved the removal of the cul-de-sac and the 2 new dwellings will have their own infiltration system. The impervious surface has been reduced and the post development will not exceed the pre-development.

Mr. McSweeney stated that there was an issue with drainage on General Walker Estates. Ms. Mathis replied that was correct. The Planning Board hired a peer reviewer and they have approved the changes. Mr. McSweeney stated that there will be no change in grade. Ms. Mathis replied that was correct.

Dr. Weiner asked if all drainage is underground and there are no pits. Ms. Mathis replied that was correct.

Marjorie Smith of 105 Francis Wyman Road commented on Facebook that the proposed houses would be too close to the street and she would prefer them to be set back. Ms. Lumenello stated that she should speak to the Planning Board in regards to the house location.

MOTION: Dr. Saltsman moved to approve the Definitive Subdivision for 101 Francis Wyman Road. The motion was seconded by Ms. Welch and unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Walendziewicz, Dr. Saltsman, Ms. Welch, and Dr. Weiner voted in favor. (5-0-0)

- ***Application for a Definitive Subdivision – Birch Lane***

Dr. Weiner stated that this item will be continued until the next meeting.

Permits:

- ***Lahey Hospital & Medical Center, 31 Burlington Mall Road – Biological Safety Permit***

Dr. Saltsman stated that due to his affiliation, he is going to recuse himself from this permit.

Dr. Gyorgy Abel from Lahey Clinic presented the 2020 Institutional Biological Safety Report. Dr. Gyorgy stated that the rDNA research is compliant with all statutes and regulations. They meet or exceed BL-2 level safety standards. A lab inspection was conducted July 16, 2020 and there were no violations or deficiencies. They have no plans to isolate or manipulate COVID-19 at Lahey. Dr. Gyorgy added that no more than 2/3 of the COVID-19 beds were used at the peak. The main struggle during the peak was testing due to the supply chain issues so they brought in their own testing.

Ms. Mathis recommended issuing the permit.

Ms. Welch left the meeting at 7:48 PM

There were no questions from the audience.

MOTION: Mr. McSweeney moved to approve the Biological Safety Permit for Lahey Hospital & Medical Center, 31 Burlington Mall Road. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walendziewicz and unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Walendziewicz and Dr. Weiner voted in favor and Dr. Saltsman abstained from voting. (3-0-1)

Dr. Saltsman rejoined the meeting.

- ***Keeping of Animals – 130 Pearl Street, 15 Chickens***

Carlos Sandoval, the applicant appeared for the hearing.



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Ms. Hardy stated that she performed an inspection, measured the coop and reviewed the pest and manure plan and a letter of recommendation from the property owner. She would recommend approval.

Ms. Lumenello stated that if this gets approved, the applicant would still need to go to the Planning Board for a Special Permit. Mr. McSweeney asked what would happen if it was denied. Ms. Lumenello replied then the Planning Board would enforce the removal of the animals.

Mr. McSweeney stated that the permit is for 15 chickens and asked if the neighbors were notified. Ms. Lumenello stated that they were notified and they have not received any complaints.

Dr. Weiner asked if the eggs will be consumed or sold. Mr. Sandoval stated that the eggs are to be eaten by his family.

There were no questions from the audience.

MOTION: Ms. Walendziewicz moved to approve the permit for Keeping of Animals for 130 Pearl Street for 15 chickens. 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)

Discussion:

● ***14 Independence Drive, Kennel License Recommendation***

Cynthia Carey appeared for a kennel license recommendation at 14 Independence Drive.

Ms. Hardy stated that she performed the inspection. There were 4 dogs on property. The yard is not fenced in but they are planning on adding a fenced in area and there is a small run area. Dr. Weiner stated that if there are 4 or more dogs, the Town requires a kennel license.

Mr. McSweeney asked if there is a limit of how many dogs can be on site if approved. Ms. Lumenello replied there is no limit but it is inspected every year.

There were no questions from the audience.

MOTION: Dr. Saltsman moved to issue a favorable kennel license recommendation for 14 Independence Drive. 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)

● ***Burlington Public Schools Reopening Plan***

Martha Simmons, Carl Foss, Katherine Bond, Deborah Clark, Barbara Conley, Cari Perchase, Mark Sullivan, Bob Cunha, Dr. Eric Conti appeared to discuss the reopening plan for Burlington Public Schools. Dr. Weiner stated that a walk through at the High School was done today and it was very informative. Dr. Conti thanked Ms. Lumenello and the Board for all the help trying to get the schools reopened. The schools closed on March 12th and they are working with Ariadne Labs to balance the risks of returning to school with the issues facing our school community such as: loss of learning; social and emotional impacts; increase of child abuse; food insecurities; parental employment issues and essential services. When school opens, flu shots will be required, all students from Pre-K to High School will require masks; face shields may require; barriers will be set up. The districts will split into Cohort sizes of no more than 25. Dr. Conti stated that 80% of the parents/students want an in school experience and the COVID-19 numbers are low in Burlington so a hybrid solution matches our metrics. A feasible study was conducted and 3 out of the 4 levels could not bring all the students back at once. There are 2 groups – Pre-School, Middle School and High School will divide the student body into two groups and do a hybrid plan of ½ time in school and ½ time remote. The



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second group is the Elementary schools which will meet the 3' or 6' social distance requirement. Out of the 1750 fully students, 400 students have elected fully remote. Dr. Conti asked that the directors and principals at each level give a summary. Dr. Conti is asking families to contribute to the safety of the students and staff. They are asking that the parents and staff do daily health checks and have the students or staff stay home if they are sick. There will be hand sanitizer available. They can't eliminate COVID-19 but they can reduce the risk for the students and staff.

Preschool – Director Deborah Clark

The group is 3-4 year olds. There are 9 classrooms that have students with and without disabilities. There will be a full 5 days for students with higher needs. The others will be 5 days a week. The students will go home for lunch and then have a remote session in the afternoon. All morning classes from 8:10 AM to 11:10 AM. There will be 7 students per class and they will be separated into Cohorts A & B and they will not mix. This hybrid will be every other week. Snacks will be eliminated at the beginning unless a student is in school for over 4 hours.

School Nurse Supervisor – Barbara Conley

Ms. Conley stated that they have enough PPE for 12 weeks of classes or more. There will be 2 nurses at each school. All the schools are prepared and have isolation areas with separate access. They have regulations in place on dismissals and returns for students testing positive.

Elementary Schools

Memorial – Principal Deb Dressler

There will be cohorts that will not mingle to provide easy contact tracing. They have modified the traffic flows and bathroom routines.

Pine Glen – Principal John Lyons

They have modified the traffic flows and moved and changed furniture to allow for social distancing.

Francis Wyman – Principal Nicole McDonald

Ours is a large building with large classrooms so social distancing is easier. We are also limiting any adults in the building.

Fox Hill – Principal David Rosenblatt

They will use the fire doors for exiting and entering to improve traffic flow and have changed the bathroom policy to 1 student at a time.

Middle School – Principal Cari Perchase

They have special classes and programs of study but they will limit interaction with team models. There are 3 grade levels and there will be 3 teams at each grade. They will have 2 days in school and 3 days remote learning with Cohort A & B, 135 have selected remote only learning which will leave about 325 students in school at a time. The specialty teachers will be moving to different classes, not the students. They have extended the arrival time and the arrivals will be outside and the process will be reversed for dismissal. There is a 1-way staircase and lunch will be served in the classroom.

High School – Principal Mark Sullivan



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The high school will have 2 days in school and 3 days remote learning. The students with extra needs will be in school for all 5 days. The traffic flow and class room setups have been altered as well as the drop off and pick up.

Director of Operations – Bob Cunha

They have set up cleaning protocols and the HVAC systems in all schools are being evaluated. They are measuring the air flow and will have a report hopefully by Thursday. They have changed all the air filters and this report will give us a baseline air quality. They will be testing the air quality for the first month of school.

Dr. Saltsman wanted to thank the school administration and staff for all the hard work being done to get students back in school. He is an advocate for reopening the school safely. Dr. Saltsman asked what happens if students or staff are not accountable in the precautions being set up. Dr. Conti stated that we need to make students be responsible and parents need to take an active role. We try to lead with positive relationships. If there are any concerns, all remote access is available. Mr. Sullivan stated that if a student becomes a discipline issue, then they will be removed from the hybrid option and will be put on remote learning. Dr. Conti added that the students also need to be responsible of the risks outside of the school.

Mr. McSweeney stated that he is impressed with everything being done and planned for. There is no perfect plan but he looks forward to the ever evolving plans to get students back in school. Mr. McSweeney asked what is being done to protect staff. Dr. Conti stated that the guidelines are changing daily but they are doing everything possible to protect the staff and students by being more restrictive in mask guidance and providing social distancing. They regularly meet with the 12 surround communities to get ideas.

Ms. Walendziewicz thanked the staff for all their hard work.

Ms. Lumenello stated that Ms. Welch had 2 questions: will these changes require changes to the evacuation plan and lock down procedures. Dr. Conti replied yes and they are working with Burlington Police.

Dr. Weiner thanked all the staff and this will be a success and if the Board of Health can help in any way they are here.

Ms. Lumenello also thanked the school staff for working so hard. Ms. Lumenello asked if there will be recess in the elementary schools and will the cohorts be kept separate. Mr. Lyons replied that there will be no recess but teachers can take their class outside for mask breaks, art, gym, music, etc. The cohorts will stay as a class. Ms. Lumenello asked how you are limiting adults coming into the school. Dr. Conti replied that they are not renting out the building to outside organizations. Ms. Purchase stated that in the middle school, each team is split into A & B groups. There are some overlaps but the cohorts are under 12 students each. They are also going to track when students leave their bubble. The café is not open and there will be no serving line, the café staff will bring lunch to the students in the classroom.

Public

A Facebook poster asked if the air quality report will have the air exchange rate. Mr. Cunha replied yes along with the classroom sizes.

Michelle Smith – Ms. Smith asked if the outside air was being measured. Mr. Cunha replied yes, it measures the flow coming through the machine. The engineer will be available on Thursday for questions. Ms. Smith stated that bringing in the outside air into the classrooms is a better option. Ms. Smith stated that the students should be held accountable for their actions and asked if there will be a policy to address students



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who refuse to follow the rules. Dr. Conti replied that he hopes that there won't be multiple instances but for the students but there will be warnings issued. Ms. Smith stated that if the school is not being rented out to the YMCA, what is going to be the impact to the after school program and contact tracing. Dr. Conti stated that the Burlington Public Schools after school programs will continue and will keep students in their own school. They are expanding the Burlington after school program and they will continue to work towards a full day school option. Ms. Lumenello added that the Board of Health has full responsibility for the contact tracing.

Staff Reports

Environmental Engineer

Ms. Mathis presented her report.

- The Household Hazard Waste Day is planned for September 12th. They are working on the contact free procedures including remaining in the car, masks are required and the waste should be stored in the rear of the vehicle.
- Burlington's risk rating for West Nile Virus is Low and EEE is Remote.

Mr. McSweeney stated they he saw the pictures from Staples regarding the water runoff. Ms. Mathis stated that the property owners were notified pre COVID and they have been back and forth with the attorney and engineer. This needs further review and is on the list. Mr. McSweeney stated that the water is disgusting and there is trash in it and it seems like it is a health hazard. Ms. Mathis replied that she will reach out to the DPW.

Dr. Weiner urged residents not to buy hand sanitizer that contains methanol. Residents should check the FDA website.

MOTION: Ms. Walendziewicz moved to approve 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)

Associate Health Inspector

Ms. Hardy presented her report.

- The COVID-19 pre-inspections for restaurants have been completed and they have started on their routine inspections schedule.
- She is working on MRC training and seeing if virtual training would be acceptable.

Dr. Saltsman asked what percentages of the restaurants have not reopened. Ms. Hardy replied most of the corporate cafes and hotels have not re-opened. Most of the restaurants have and she knows of 2 that have closed.

MOTION: Mr. McSweeney moved to approve the Associate Health Inspector'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)

Supervisory Nurse

Ms. Paulik presented her report.

- They have been very busy with contact tracing.



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- They are preparing for flu clinics starting in September. They will start with staff, emergency responders and the elderly.
- There will be training for administering child vaccines.
- They are preparing for a rabies clinic in March.

Mr. McSweeney asked how many typically attend the rabies clinic. Ms. Paulik replied about 35. Mr. McSweeney asked if we are increasing the number of flu vaccines we are purchasing. Ms. Lumenello replied that they are not planning on purchasing more at this time. If we need more then we will get them from DPH. We haven't received our standard order from the State yet. Ms. Paulik stated that we are looking at a drive-up flu clinic.

Dr. Weiner asked if there will be senior flu vaccines, if so how many and will house visits be conducted. Ms. Paulik stated that they have ordered 170 high dose flu vaccines but they are not planning on house visits. Ms. Paulik added that they are looking at having mini-clinics and not large dispensing clinics. Dr. Saltsman added that flu vaccines are more important than ever.

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

Director of Public Health

Ms. Lumenello presented her report:

- We are responding to all COVID complaints that come in but are referring people to the State website as well.

Mr. McSweeney stated that there were several complaints listed for LifeTime Fitness and should they be brought in before the Board. Ms. Lumenello replied that all the complaints were resolved and most had to do with location of equipment, pool chairs and use of the showers. We just provided some education. Mr. McSweeney stated that if the complaints continue, then they should be brought before the Board to discuss.

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

Dr. Weiner ended with be safe, be well and wash your hands.

Adjourn

MOTION: Dr. Saltsman moved to adjourn the Board of Health meeting at 9:45 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. McSweeney unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Walenziewicz, 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, AUGUST 25, 2020

Agenda

Approval of Minutes: None

Citizen's Time: None

Chairman's Report: None

Subcommittee Reports: None

Applications:

- ***Application for a Definitive Subdivision – 101 Francis Wyman Road:*** C. Mathis memo dated August 25, 2020; Dresser, Williams and Way Modified Subdivision Plans dated July 2, 2020; Form C application dated July 14, 2020
- ***Application for a Definitive Subdivision – Birch Lane:*** C. Mathis memo dated August 25, 2020; Alan C. Nelson Subdivision Plans March 2, 2020; Memo from SMG dated June 15, 2020; Building Inspector Memo dated September 5, 2019; Form C application dated June 15, 2020

Permits:

- ***Lahey Hospital & Medical Center, 31 Burlington Mall Road – Biological Safety Permit Application:*** Powerpoint Presentation dated August 25, 2020
- ***Keeping of Animals – 130 Pearl Street, 15 Chickens:*** S. Hardy memo dated July 27, 2020; Application w/pictures, drawing, turf management plan and feed storage plan; Memo from Property Owner dated July 26, 2020

Discussion:

- ***14 Independence Drive, Kennel License Recommendation:*** Kennel License Recommendation
- ***Burlington Public Schools Reopening Plan:*** School Re-Entry Powerpoint Presentation; Fall ReOpening Facilities & Operation Guidance; DESC-DPH Joint Memo dated August 18, 2020

Staff Reports: Environmental Engineer's Report; Supervisory Nurse's Report; Associate Health Inspector's Report; Director of Public Health's Report