

**Weston Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2021
4:00pm-5:02pm**

Present: Laura Azzam, Chair
Dr. David Kominz, Member
Dr. Elisabeth DiPietro, Member
Wendy Diotalevi, R.S., Public Health Director
Beth Ann Boles, R.S., Health Agent
Michele Schuckel, R.N., COVID-19 Response Team Public Health Nurse

Others: Kathleen Brown, Needham Board of Health; Stephen LaRoche

I. **Approval of Board of Health Meeting Minutes: October 6th, 20th, and 26th,
November 10th, December 1st, and 22nd, 2020**

- Dr. Elisabeth DiPietro made a motion to approve the October 6th and 20th, 2020 Board of Health Meeting Minutes. Dr. David Kominz second the motion. Vote unanimous. Motion carries.
- BOH Meeting Minutes for November 10th, December 1st and December 22nd - **Tabled**

II. **Discussion of New “Private Hauler” Regulations -Tabled**

III. **Director’s Report & COVID-19 Updates**

- Public Health Director Wendy Diotalevi informed the Board that Weston and Waltham have started running the COVID-19 vaccination clinics for First Responders in Waltham as of yesterday, January 11, 2021. The Weston Board of Health received a delivery of 400 doses last Tuesday, January 5th. The nurses administering the vaccine are getting 10-12 doses per vial. The State activated the PrepMod database to help with sign-ups and getting the first responders registered.

Once the first responders have been vaccinated in Weston and Waltham, the next step is to look for a location in Weston to use for ongoing vaccinations. The goal is to keep this location open and maintained for future doses received and administered. A few sites that may work out are a couple of vacant buildings in Weston (Liberty Mutual and Wingate) as these sites would allow for ongoing clinics and would not interfere with Town business. Town Hall maybe an option if used on Saturdays.

Ms. Diotalevi informed the Board that she is concentrating on the COVID-19 vaccination clinics and has asked the Town Manager to consider using the Cares Act money to fill her position in the meantime. Dr. DiPietro agrees that finding someone to assist the office would be helpful as there is too much to do with COVID-19 vaccinations and the office is understaffed. Ms. Diotalevi is looking

for someone who can fulfill Public Health, Environmental, and Emergency Preparedness roles. She is willing to stay with the Board of Health until a replacement is on board. There is a need for additional administrative help and also a need for a fulltime nurse.

- Public Health Nurse Michele Schuckel updated the Board on the current COVID-19 situation in Weston. There are currently 46 positive cases in Weston and that triggers many phone calls. There was an increase in cases due to the December holiday gatherings. Another 14 positive cases today. Usually seeing 6-7 new cases a day. Weston continues to do well in keeping case numbers low.

A brief update on the schools was also provided to the Board. Regis College is preparing to get ready for students and staff to return to campus this upcoming long weekend. There is a new Health Director at Regis. Currently campus is relatively quiet. Higher education tends to have lower case rates when they are testing routinely. The Seminary is getting back into session this weekend and will start their regathering COVID-19 testing and this testing will be ongoing. Cambridge School of Weston students will return to campus at the end of January and regathering testing is also being done. Rivers School students are returning this week and two rounds of regathering testing has already been done. Their COVID manager has joined Michele's nurses' meetings and that seems to have helped communication. The Weston Public Schools began COVID-19 testing today and will continue tomorrow. The testing is open to staff and students. The nurses are working with the schools to encourage participation as more data is helpful. The Cares Act was extended to December 2021 and money will be used to help fund nursing and testing.

IV. **Next Meeting**
Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 4:00PM (Zoom Meeting)

V. **Meeting Adjourned**