

**Weston Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2021
4:00pm-5:40pm**

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
Sharon Bonica, Administrative Assistant

Others: Art Goldstein, Vida Goldstein, Gerri

I. **Residents' Concerns**

A few Weston residents joined today's meeting to listen in on when the Board of Health would be offering the COVID-19 vaccine to those 75yrs and older.

II. **Approval of Board of Health Meeting Minutes: November 10th, December 1st, December 16th, December 22nd, 2020 and January 12, 2021**

- Dr. David Kominz made a motion to approve the November 10, 2020 Board of Health Meeting Minutes. Dr. Elisabeth DiPietro second the motion. Vote unanimous. Motion carries.
- Dr. David Kominz made a motion to approve the December 1, 2020 Board of Health Meeting Minutes. Dr. Elisabeth DiPietro second the motion. Vote unanimous. Motion carries.
- Dr. David Kominz made a motion to approve the December 22, 2020 Board of Health Meeting Minutes. Dr. Elisabeth DiPietro second the motion. Vote unanimous. Motion carries.
- BOH Minutes for December 16, 2020 and January 12, 2021 - Tabled

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

Public Health Director Wendy Diotalevi updated the Board that 400 doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine has been administered to First Responders in Weston and Waltham, and the second doses will be administered in the next two weeks. The Board of Health received 200 doses for another clinic to be held this Saturday, January 30, 2021 from 10am-12pm at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints on Brown Street in Weston.

Ms. Diotalevi indicated that there have been a lot of calls and lots of questions coming in as to when, where, how, etc. She is advising those to visit the Town of Weston Board of Health Website that will provide a link for more information on vaccination sites. The office has been inundated with calls and possibly forwarding calls to the Council on Aging to help with these COVID vaccine questions and registrations would help. Will discuss with COA.

A brief discussion was held to address questions on the amount of time kids are spending at school. Is there a way to increase in-person learning? The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) indicates that 6ft distancing is ideal, but 3ft is possible. Public Health Nurse Michele Schuckel indicated when looking at this that there are many concerns from many parties including parents, families, union concerns, caregivers, the School Committee, and the Board of Health / public health concerns. The CDC information today about getting kids back into schools will need to be evaluated. Ms. Diotalevi feels that we perhaps need to wait to get teachers vaccinated to make them feel okay to get more of them back into the schools as new variants are coming out. Laura Azzam said that the schools will work on a plan to increase secondary in-school hours once COVID-19 case numbers decrease.

Public Health Nurse Michele Schuckel updated the Board that they are starting to see a decrease in active COVID-19 cases in Weston. The spike seen in recent weeks was directly attributable to holiday social gatherings and travel. There had been a few cases with those over 65, one instance of school possible spread that was locked down with quarantine, and increased on-campus learning at Regis with some cases there in clusters. Testing is done weekly at Regis and there are designated spaces for quarantine or isolation of cases including off campus housing. There is no concern of untraced spread of COVID-19 on campus.

Public health Director Wendy Diotalevi reported that a meeting will be held next week, Tuesday, February 2, 2021 with the Land Use Department, the Town Manager, Wendy Diotalevi, and Laura Azzam to discuss blending the departments. Ms. Diotalevi informed the Board that there are areas where this would work such as Title 5, construction and demolition projects, but there is the public health piece that the Board of Health deals with that requires a BOH to be autonomous and needs to consider protecting. Ms. Diotalevi is asking the Board to investigate communities that have lost their Public Health to Inspectional Services. A community can lose a lot if the focus is just construction such as environmental health, public health, communicable disease, mental health and emergency preparedness. This topic has come up due to COVID-19 causing a communication gap with contractors. Contractors do not necessarily understand that BOH needs to review building projects and since the BOH is not part of the GIS database that the Building Dept. uses, there has been an increase in frustration with submittal of applications. It is frustrating for all. Ms. Diotalevi mentioned the possibility of offering another Homeowners Workshop as the departments have done in the past usually in March.

IV. **Next Meeting**
Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 4:00PM (Zoom Meeting)

V. **Meeting Adjourned**