

WESTON BOARD OF HEALTH
Meeting Minutes for
Wednesday, May 11, 2022
10:04 AM – 10:49 AM
Zoom Meeting

Present: Laura Azzam – Chair
Dr. David Kominz – Member
Dr. Jennifer Kickham - Member
Michele Fronk Schuckel MBA, BSN, RN – COVID-19 Response Manager, BOH Public Health Nurse
Kelly Pawluczzonek, RS, MS - Public Health Director
Michelle Hubbard – Administrative Assistant, Meeting Minutes

I. Residents' Concerns

Meeting called to order at 10:04 AM. Fatemeh Mojtabai addressed the ongoing issue at her home at 98 Jericho Road regarding the leaking roof. There was a roof inspection that was done on April 27, but she is still concerned nothing will be done. It is not clear when or if they will be doing the repairs. The most recent email sent to Kelly and Fatemeh is that they are waiting for the reports and the Board approval. Fatemeh is requesting that the town does something because it has been 2 weeks and there is still no report from the roof inspector. Kelly has reached out to Town Manager Leon Gaumond and he will verify with Town Council for next steps as far as enforcement against the Dartmouth Group.

No other resident concerns unrelated to agenda items.

II. Approval of Minutes

Dr. David Kominz made a motion to move the approval of minutes from February 2 and February 16 to the next meeting on June 8. Dr. Jennifer Kickham seconds the motion. All in favor, the motion is carried.

III. Ice Cream Truck – Fee Waiver Request – VeeBop's

Dr. David Kominz made a motion to reduce the fee for VeeBop's from \$125 to \$50 with the condition they continue to make their donation to the recreation department. Dr. Jennifer Kickham seconds the motion. All in favor, the motion is carried.

IV. 42 Brook Road – Septic Variances

Abutters were not notified of the variances. This will be discussed at the meeting on June 8.

V. COVID-19 Report/Update – Michele Fronk Schuckel, MBA, BSN, RN

The current positivity rate in Weston for April 17 – April 30 is 7.86%, which is higher than it has ever been. This number changes a lot based on how much testing is going on, and we may or may not hear from people who are doing at home testing.

Massachusetts is at about a 6.25% positivity rate. Symptom wise, most of the cases are running somewhere between thinking it is allergies and moderate flu like illness. A couple of residents have been to the ER, and a student who attends private school in Weston but does not live here was in the ICU for a couple of days and is now recovering at home. The student was both vaccinated and boosted.

We are continuing to work with all of our partners on education. Michele and Kelly Pesek are reaching out to anyone who is confirmed or with a probable positive, as well as to all of the cases through the public schools that they find through an information sharing plan they have with them. They make it clear that public health and school health have slightly different recommendations. Michele and Kelly are encouraging from the public health perspective that people take an antigen test before returning to the classroom or to the workplace. The Department of Education does not require this and sees a day 6 test as impeding access to public education. The students are going back to school and we are hearing there is moderate compliance with masking. Students may be masking in the classroom for their days 6-10, but are not masking in carpools or sports situations, and are returning to social situations. Data reports that 30% of people remain infectious after day 5 and we are seeing it stick around a little longer.

On Saturday we had a Vote and Vax program, and about 40 people were boosted. There were a couple of drop ins, and both Pfizer and Moderna were offered. Free tests kits were given away that we received from the state as a result for offering vaccine to residents. We have offered the tests at the Library, Council on Aging, and through Brook School. The tests were handed out at Town Meeting on Monday night and at the election on Saturday. Kelly stated we had a little over 2,800 tests kits and they are all gone at this point. Michele discussed a couple of options about trying to get booster clinic information more widely spread. Kelly stated at the last clinic we had at the COA, there were 96 slots and only about 40 were filled and brought up the potential of doing another booster clinic.

A discussion was had about the treatments for COVID-19. Michele has had a couple of discussions with people and directs anyone that we know is positive to the state information and encourage them to call their doctors or self-refer for treatment. A person needs to seek treatment within the first 5 days for antivirals to be effective, otherwise they are in a later stage, responding to the virus rather than preventing. Anyone 50+ or with an underlying health risk would qualify, and they are doing same day appointments. Kelly asked Michele if she has received any calls about vaccines for the 5-12 year olds. Kelly received a call asking if we were running anything for this age

group because some of the CVS Pharmacies are not ordering that age group. Michele has not heard this but thinks people should be able to call their doctor's office, and there are still public clinics happening.

Kelly asked Michele if she had any information about the Hepatitis going around in young children. It started in the UK and it has been in the US, and it looks like there are 2 cases in Massachusetts now. Michele said we don't have a lot of information. Hepatitis in kids is still rare. There are about 24 states in the US in the last 8-9 months that have had ambiguous liver infections in children. Because of the pediatric population, Michele isn't sure how much data we will get on the children in Massachusetts. It is considered incredibly rare. The CDC is pushing out information this week about the possibility of a relationship between Adenovirus infection and Hepatitis. The current response is to make sure pediatricians and parents of young children are on the lookout for symptoms. There is no relationship between these and the COVID-19 vaccine.

VI. Director's Monthly Review/Update – Betterment Loan Program, 2 Shared Services Grants

There haven't been too many moves with the Shared Services Grant. Everyone is trying to get onboarded, they are meeting the new people, and the work is going to start soon.

The department is very busy with mobile food trucks and temporary food permits for events happening in town. We are doing a lot of permits for camps, pools, demolition, construction, and septic work as well. We have not started using the new food software yet as they are waiting for everyone to get onboard so there can be a training. Beth will be going to that training.

A brief discussion was had about Town Meeting for those who could not attend.

VII. Next Meeting Date

June 8, 2022 at 10:00 AM via Zoom.

VIII. Adjourn

Dr. Jennifer Kickham motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dr. David Kominz seconds and Laura Azzam adjourned the meeting at 10:49 AM.