

WESTON BOARD OF HEALTH
Meeting Minutes for
Wednesday, June 30, 2021
10am-12:40pm
Weston Town Hall

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
 Wendy Diotalevi, R.S., Public Health Director
 Sharon Bonica – Office Manager, Meeting minutes
 Dr. Barbara Fullerton, PhD – Resident
 Vito Colona – Engineer- Sullivan, Connors & Associates – Hearing 694 Boston Post Rd.

- I. Residents' Concerns– Dr. Barbara Fullerton asked the question of the Board members if they had contacted the Select Board on the discussion of the use of Herbicides and Pesticides. She has an article coming out in the Town Crier on July 1st on this subject. Laura Azzam said she looked into the integrated vegetation plan and also the DPW program on pesticides. She will be further investigating this issue for discussion on what they Board will choose to do. Public Health Director Wendy Diotalevi said she spoke with Leon Gaumond, Town Manager about getting a focus group appointed for this topic. Wendy said that the BOH members should get residents involved with the focus group and have meetings to discuss alternatives to Round Up that is being used now. Wendy said to get the communities expectations in this matter. Dr. Barbara Fullerton spoke about glyphosate and Monsanto. She told the Board members that there is a book on this and gave them the information. Dr. Barbara Fullerton has many articles on Glyphosate and will send to the Board members via e-mail. Dr. Barbara Fullerton wants aggressive action and is pushing for the Board to not have Round Up spraying in Weston. Dr. Jennifer Kickham would like to move quickly to get this resolved. They want to identify alternatives and do studies. Laura Azzam said she didn't want to stop something at this time without studying the issue. They will need to gather data. Dr. Barbara Fullerton said the Board of Health should be able to take the data and make decisions on this matter. Dr. Barbara Fullerton said the industry is pushing the products but they have not been studied by Scientists. Dr. David Kominz does not use Round Up or any of these products, he using many alternative products not harmful to people or other plant species. (ex. Acids, Salts, and special Vinegar solution). All members agree that the use of Round Up should be eliminated at the town playgrounds, playing fields and schools.

- II. Meeting Minutes – Dr. David Kominz motioned to approve the June 9th meeting minutes to add in the names of the candidates. Dr. Jennifer Kickham second the motion these minutes are approved.
- III. Dr. David motioned to approve the June 15th minutes and Dr. Jennifer Kickham second the motion these minutes are approved.
- IV. Rooster issue - A discussion was brought up again about roosters in Weston. The residents who own them and the neighbors have called all around to see if there is anyone who would take the roosters in. No one is taking any animals at this time due to the COVID situation and due to fact of possibility of disease. Wendy Diotalevi called some residents she knew to see if they knew of anyone else to take them in. Wendy Diotalevi has spoken with the Animal Control Officer and there really isn't anything she can do at this time. They talked about putting a noise ordinance and possibly only allow the residents with many acres to have roosters. It was also talked about that the residents put coverings over the rooster shelters from certain times to keep them from being awake and bothering neighbors. Dr. David Kominz said they should have the same ordinance times as contractors for working. Dr. Jennifer Kickham talked about talking to other communities in the area that have regulations for roosters and getting the information and put something together for Weston. Wendy Diotalevi said that they should have to be a minimum of 200 ft. from any property line.
- V. Hearing for 694 Boston Post Rd. – Vito Colona Engineer – Sullivan, Connor & Associates, Sudbury, MA. (Cut and Paste Document for description sent to BOH)
Vito Colona spoke with the Board about this property that has a currently failing septic system. He spoke about where the system was tested and why they need to put the new system in the rear of the property. There are water lines and gas lines in the front of the property. They are within the 100 ft. buffer zone of a tributary to the Cambridge Water Supply. They will need a variance in order to put in this septic system which is better than it was before with the existing failed system.

Public Health Director Wendy Diotalevi spoke to the Board members that eventually it would be preferable to have a treatment plant on Boston Post Rd. due to the fact of these properties that are near the tributary to the Cambridge Water supply. She said that the residents would benefit and would be able to get suitable septic systems. She said that this property is being improved with the system being proposed and the system is being raised to four ft. above the water table, two ft. is minimum. They are going to have a 1500-gallon septic tank and is being designed for 4BR's.

Dr. David Kominz voted to approve the variance as proposed with the approval of Cambridge Water Supply. This is less than the 100 ft. to the Tributary to Cambridge Water supply. Dr. Jennifer Kickham second the motion. All approved.

VI. Michele Fronk Schuckel MBA, BSN, RN – COVID-19 Response Manager, BOH Public Health Nurse – Nursing Report Update

Covid Report – There are no active cases in Weston at this time.

There is blood testing being done for vaccine response. There is no testing that is being done to separate the previous infection to the vaccine response. (Vaccine induced or from the COVID virus) Forty to sixty percent of the cases in Weston were asymptomatic. There were trials being done for the vaccine and they did not do any studies on the antibodies prior to the vaccinations.

Delta Variant (India – B1617) In New England May 23rd to June 5th had ten percent of cases and June 6th to June 19th it went up to 26.1 percent. The B117 strain of the delta variant is increasing across the United States and the world.

There are concerns for the Fall of the Delta Variant with the schools.

There is a very high percent of the Weston Residents vaccinated in each category that is at a higher rate than other communities in MA. 68% of all residents eligible. The hope is to have most of the children that are eligible vaccinated prior to the start of school in September.

Michele Schuckel will continue with COVID tracing availability through the fall and there is Cares Act Money available until the end of December 2021. Michele is watching for the variants. Michele S. will check with Mignonne Murry at the COA to see if there are any of their population that may need the vaccines at this time. She will assist if needed.

There are many mobile unit clinics being held in MA at this time to get the population vaccinated. Michele S. will continue with contact tracing and touch base with the pre-schools to help out if needed. Michele S. is still in touch with the Assisted Living facilities and making sure they have their vaccinations. She will continue to keep in touch with the Seminary on South Avenue as they have the priests coming in all the time and the population changes regularly. She is trying to keep these institutions educated and up to date on any changes that occur. The Weston public schools will be getting Michele S. the report on the student vaccinations.

If the Delta Variant increases they will put the mask mandate in effect again.

Public Health Director Wendy Diotalevi is concerned with the residents traveling and the increase of the Delta Variants. Wendy is in agreement with the World Health Organization that masks should be worn in school to protect the school age children. At this time the vaccines are for only age 12 and up.

Wendy suggested that the Board of Health check in with Michele S. to see where the variants are moving forward for the Fall openings.

- VII. Adjourn - Dr. Jennifer motioned to adjourn the meeting, David Kominz 2nd and Laura Azzam adjourned the meeting at 12:40 pm