

**WESTON BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Meeting Minutes for**  
**Wednesday, July 12, 2023**  
**11:32 AM – 12:27 PM**  
**Zoom Meeting**

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

I. Residents' Concerns

Meeting called to order by Laura Azzam at 11:32 AM.

No resident concerns unrelated to agenda items.

II. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Jennifer Kickham made a motion to approve the minutes from February 8 and April 12, 2023. Laura Azzam seconds. Diana Chaplin abstained from the vote due to the fact that she was not a board member at the time of those meetings. All in favor, the motion is carried.

III. Pine Brook Country Club – request a variance from the Federal Food Code in accordance with FC 3-502.11 for the acidification of rice, “Sushi Rice.”

Pine Brook Country Club rolls their sushi at room temperature. In order to do this, they acidify their rice with vinegar. Kelly recommends granting the variance pending Board of Health final approval based on the HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points) plan and lab results. Beth reached out to Jason at Pine Brook and has not received any kind of lab testing yet, but she will be continuing to review the HACCP plan that was provided. Beth has requested laboratory testing to confirm their recipe to make sure that it is meeting the proper pH standards.

Diana Chaplin made a motion to approve the variance pending the approval of the HACCP plan and lab results. Dr. Jennifer Kickham seconds. All in favor, the motion is carried.

IV. 51 Loring Lane – Animal Permit – Update – Animal Inspector Karen O’Reilly

The owner has made no effort to obtain an animal permit and it now seems he may be breeding the goats. Karen emailed the owner two weeks ago and he called and stated he was out of the country and stated he had a veterinarian lined up. Karen emailed yesterday to get the required documents from the veterinarian as well as the fence company and she has not heard anything back from him. Karen and Beth went to the house on July 11 and knocked on the door, but there was no answer. They were able to see out in the backyard and noticed that the goats were outside the dilapidated fence. They saw the male, two females, and the baby. He has also acquired chickens. The neighbor gave permission to Karen and Beth to go onto her property where they were able to see the animals from a different angle. The neighbor stated that the goats are out all the time and the male has grown up and become aggressive. Karen and Kelly have discussed sending an additional order letter saying that he has to surrender the goats, but they have to look into the legality of it as they are unsure if a court order is needed. This could be considered neglect, not cruelty, but safety is a concern. We had originally given him 30 days to get a vet, install a fence, and obtain an animal permit, and he has not done any of that.

Dr. Jennifer Kickham made a motion to send a letter with a fine schedule pending further examination of the current regulations as well as an offer to rehome the animals at 51 Loring Lane. He will be given 30 days to do what was initially asked. If this is not done, he will be asked to rehome or surrender the goats. Diana Chaplin seconds. All in favor, the motion is carried.

V. 8 French Road – Septic Variance – Local Regulation

- Requesting a Variance from the Weston Board of Health Local Regulation Chapter VI Sewerage Disposal Systems 2.5 Distance Requirements – No part of the structural components of a leaching facility shall be located within 100-feet of a wetland as defined in M.G.L. Chapter 131 section 40. Request to allow the soil absorption system and system components (septic tank and pump chamber) to be within 100 ft of the wetland.

Mike DiModica spoke about the failed septic system at 8 French Road. The 3-bedroom home is on the North side of French Road and it abuts a wetland in the rear of the property. They have moved the tank and pump chamber as far from the resource area as possible, which is about 33' while still maintaining the 10' setback to the building. Mike has already spoken with Conservation and it was approved last night. Cambridge Water Supply has also given their approval. Mike is proposing both a monolithic septic tank as well as a monolithic pump chamber with an impervious barrier and a retaining wall to help with the slope.

Dr. Jennifer Kickham made a motion to approve the variance. Diana Chaplin seconds. All in favor, the motion is carried.

VI. Director's Monthly Review/Update – Kelly Pawluczonek RS, MS

Impact Melanoma is a little bit behind schedule due to a few other Boards getting involved. Everything has been approved and we should be receiving all the products next week except for the sunburn baby bags.

VII. Public Health Nurse Update – Michele Fronk Schuckel, MBA, BSN, RN

Wayland is offering Narcan to any of the seven towns in the Great Meadows Public Health Collaborative. Substance use and harm reduction trainings have been scheduled for staff and boards of health as well as for community partners including police and fire departments. These trainings provide an opportunity for everyone to be on the same page regarding the academics of harm reduction and the use of Narcan. We can customize a rollout plan if Weston is interested in participating.

Weston has a contract and contributes money annually to HRS (Human Relation Service). They are a community based mental health service with clinicians who see patients and conduct referrals. In advance of new annual contract, Michele is in the process of trying to process and decode the reports we receive from them to be assured that the supports that are being provided are meeting the needs of the town as well as the schools.

Camps have been very busy. Michele has been working with Kelly, Beth, and the nurses from the Great Meadows Public Health Collaborative and CT/CI. They have completed health care reviews for the camps in Weston. The online adverse event reporting system is up and running with the State and Michele has made the camps aware of this tool. This system can be used for reporting severe injuries or death. A discussion was had on how to make sure camps are better prepared for next year because a lot of them were not prepared for their reviews this year.

Michele is working with regional nursing and per diem nursing to staff vaccine clinics and plan for dates. An order has been placed through Sanofi that includes high dose (250) and standard dose flu (250) and the vaccines are expected to be in around Labor Day. We are waiting for information regarding the RSV vaccine and new-variant COVID-19 vaccine, which is likely recommended for 65+. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to the CDC met in June as anticipated and provided the following summary:

- ACIP met June 21 – 23. As part of the meeting, they reviewed current COVID-19 vaccine epidemiology and vaccine effectiveness. While vaccine effectiveness against hospitalization clearly wanes over about 6 months, protection against severe disease and death persists longer in people of all ages, including pregnant people. Vaccination during pregnancy reduced the likelihood of hospitalization of infants younger than age 6 months. Despite the clear benefit to recipients of all ages, uptake of the recommended bivalent vaccine remains low, with 43% of

people age 65 and older having received a dose, but fewer than 5% of children under age 12 years having received one.

- What this means for Massachusetts:  
Plans are underway for the transition to routine commercial use of COVID-19 vaccines. A new monovalent COVID-19 vaccine containing a current variant XBB.1.5 has been recommended by FDA for fall 2023. This vaccine will be available commercially at no out-of-pocket cost for adults with insurance (including Medicaid and Medicare), as well as all individuals under 19 years of age (regardless of insurance status) in Massachusetts thru the Commonwealth's pediatric vaccine program. A special 1-year bridge program is being designed to create affordable access to the new COVID-19 vaccines for 25 million uninsured adults. More details of the program are forthcoming. Once updated vaccines are licensed or authorized by FDA, ACIP will review evidence to inform its recommendations.

Waste water levels for the North and South regions of MWRA report testing levels at their lowest for COVID-19 in two years. Michele continues to get occasional reports of cases through the State and offer support to residents and older adult communities, assisted living facilities, and nursing homes.

We are getting occasional calls regarding the Canadian Wildfires and air quality. Michele has written up an explainer on Air Now forecasting and sent it to Kelly in the case that the Town would like to send it out or post it on the town website.

Michele has been working with the staff and COA Board on their request for assistance with a series or panel conversation on depression. Camps and COA received info from Michele this week regarding heat issue prevention, EEE, and West Nile Virus.

Michele continues to sit as the LPH liaison on the Infection Control Committee for Charles River Recovery. The group meets monthly and has a prevention focus. Charles River Recovery is planning flu vaccination offerings for staff for the fall. Their testing on admission for COVID-19 continues.

VIII. Next Meeting Date

September 13, 2023 at 11:30 AM via Zoom.

IX. Adjourn

Diana Chaplin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Jennifer Kickham seconds. Laura Azzam adjourned the meeting at 12:27 PM.