

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2024

DATE: April 9, 2024
TIME: 10:00 AM

The Board of Health Meeting, held on ZOOM, was called to order at 9:01 am by Adrienne Allen, Chair.

Those present were Adrienne Allen, M.D., M.P.H. Chair; Stephen M. Fiore, Esq., Vice Chair; Julie C. Lemay, M.P.H, Member; Wesley Chin, Director; Diana Ekman, Asst. Health Director; Lindsey Sharp, Health Agent; David Neylon, Public Health Nurse; Maria Reddington, Clerk.

There was no public participation.

The Meeting Minutes of February 5, 2024 were approved by a vote of 2-0 (Julie Lemay, Stephen Fiore).

The Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2024 were approved by a vote of 3-0 (Adrienne Allen, Stephen Fiore, Julie Lemay).

Body Art Regulations:

- Diana Ekman reviewed the draft of the updated Regulation, which will include an apprenticeship / training section as a separate permit category, definition of experience, and a variance request process.

The Board members voted 3-0 to approve the revisions to the Body Art Regulations (Julie Lemay, Adrienne Allen, Stephen Fiore).

Fee Schedule – The Board members voted 3-0 to approve the updated fee schedule to update the body art fees (Julie Lemay, Stephen Fiore, Adrienne Allen).

Request to vacate Nuisance Order issued in 2020 for K9 Geronimo and K9 Sequioah:

Wes explained details of the request. Health Department staff have reached out to Town Counsel and MDAR for guidance to ensure they are doing the right thing before proceeding.

Julie Lemay asked if there have been any complaints/concerns since the Order was issued. All conditions outlined in the Order have been followed, and no complaints have been received.

Stephen Fiore appreciates the efforts of the dog owners to comply with the Order.

Next steps will be to reach out to the dog owners once an answer has been given by Town Counsel or MDAR.

The Receipts report was reviewed.

The Director/Assistant Director/Health Agent report was reviewed:

- Housing
 - Receivership of a property is in process according to the AG's Abandoned Housing Initiative (AHI). Paperwork should be filed by the end of this month. No communication has been received from the property owner.

- Title V Projects:
 - 119 Juniper Road - Plans for the system will be sent to Mill River Consulting. The fee for the consultant's service will be passed on to the property owner in accordance with the updated fee schedule.
 - 270 Somerset Street – The Applicant resubmitted plans not requiring a Local Upgrade Approval for compliance. The Plan Review should be complete once DEP answers a technical question that staff sent for review.
- Rats:
 - There have been 4 new complaints received in the office since the last BOH Meeting.
 - Smart boxes have had 3 new catches. A new bait option, and relocation of the boxes was done by the Company.
- Social Media
 - Followers increased by 20. Postings this month included the Listeria outbreak, Memorial Day Ceremony, and walk-in vaccine hours at Osco Pharmacy.
- COVID-19
 - David Neylon spoke about the updated CDC guidance which has not yet been adopted by MA Department of Public Health (MDPH).
 - MDPH expects to adopt the updated CDC guidance in approximately 10 days.
 - Presently, BPS are following MDPH guidance. Staff expects this will change once MDPH adopts the updated CDC guidance.
 - The CDC also updated booster shot recommendations for the over 65 population. Osco Pharmacy will partner with the Town and hold a vaccine clinic at the Beech Street Center.
 - The Town received 900 COVID tests from the State. The expiration date of the tests is currently March 25th.
- Opioid Settlement Funds
 - The first Narcan Training will be held at Fire Station Headquarters March 21st. There were 30 training spots which were filled within 48 hours.
 - Future dates will be posted on various Town social media outlets.
- Public Health Excellence (PHE) Grant Staffing
 - The new Public Health Specialist is Lindsey Sharp! Wesley thanked Lindsey for all she did for the Town of Belmont during her 5 years of employment. Wesley is grateful that Lindsey will continue to be in Belmont 2 days per week to help out, while continuing to work on regional projects.
- Budget/Override update:
 - The Town Administrator asked Wes to list duties performed by the Social Worker.
 - Human Services Subcommittee Warrant Committee ZOOM meeting is scheduled to meet with HD staff on March 13th. Julie Lemay will also attend this Meeting.

Paws in the Park Program:

- Recreation Commission Chair Paul Cowing was present for this portion of the meeting.
- The Board members reviewed and discussed the proposed Motions submitted by the Select Board.
- The Board members included minor revisions to the Motions presented.

- The following Motions were voted on by the Board of Health members:
 1. Paws in the Park Regulation #13: Moved, Town Bylaw §60-200 applies (see p. 3). In particular, if any person, including the Animal Control Officer, makes a complaint to the Board of Health pursuant to Bylaw §60-200(G){4} concerning a dog with a current Paws in the Park off-leash permit, that permit may be suspended and no refund of the permit fee shall be made. The permit may be reinstated in the sole discretion of the Board of Health after a hearing pursuant to Bylaw §60-200(GI(4)

Approved: Adrienne Allen, Stephen Fiore, Julie Lemay

2. Moved, that pursuant to Bylaw 60-200(1), dogs be permitted on Recreation Department athletic fields at i) Town Field, ii) Grove St Field, iii) Pequossette Field, and iv) Winn Brook Field when school is not in session and the Field is not otherwise being used by the School Dept.

Approved: Adrienne Allen, Stephen Fiore, Julie Lemay

3. Moved, that pursuant to Bylaw 60-200(()) unleashed dogs be permitted on Recreation Department athletic fields at i) Town Field, ii) Grove St Field, iii) Pequossette Field, and iv) Winn Brook Field when school is not in session and the Field is not otherwise being used by the School Dept, during days and times and under any other conditions as set by the Board of Park Commissioners pursuant to Bylaw 40-325(H), in accordance with the Paws in the Park Program, as overseen by the Recreation Commission and the Board of Park Commissioners.

Approved: Adrienne Allen, Stephen Fiore, Julie Lemay

The Public Health Nurse/Disease report was reviewed.

The Youth and Family Services report was reviewed.

The Veterans Services Officer report was reviewed.

Email Rotation:

Steve Fiore will review the emails sent to the Board of Health email address.

This will be Adrienne Allen's last meeting as a Board of Health Member. Everyone thanked Dr. Allen for serving on the Board, specifically for her valuable knowledge and guidance during COVID.

Dr. Allen thanked everyone for their behind-the-scenes hard work.

The next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2024 at 5:00 pm.

The Meeting adjourned at 10:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen M. Fiore, Esq., Chair