

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2024

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BELMONT, MA

DATE: February 6, 2024
TIME: 8:59 AM

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm by Adrienne Allen.

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, Health Director; Diana Ekman, Asst. Health Director; Lindsey Sharp, Health Agent; Suzanne Trasavage, Animal Care & Control Officer; Maria Reddington, Clerk

There was no public participation.

The Meeting Minutes of November 20, 2023 were approved by a vote of 3-0.

Appointment of Brian McCracken, Tobacco Compliance Inspector for the Town of Belmont:

- The Board members voted 3-0 to conditionally appoint Mr. McCracken as the Tobacco Compliance Inspector for the Town of Belmont pending review of his resume.

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

- Housing
 - Case 1: Another property was referred to the Attorney General Abandoned Housing Initiative. A demand notice was sent by this Agency on October 10th. The Health Department asked the Agency to appoint a receiver for this property. The Agency is in the process of drafting paperwork to have a receiver assigned.
 - Case 2: A community member reported a resident may be without heat and living in hoarded conditions. First responders performed a well check. The property has been condemned. The situation has not yet reached resolution as the resident has not been willing to work with staff.
- Food
 - Diana Ekman reports the number of food inspections completed in 2023 increased by ~20% over the previous year.
 - Plan reviews were completed for Butternut Bakehouse and Art's Creamery.
- Title 5 Projects
 - 119 Juniper Road – Replace failed system.
 - 270 Somerset Street – Reviewed initial set of plans, which included a request for a Local Upgrade Approval. Approval of this request would require that there is no feasible option. New plans will be submitted for review.
- Body Art Regulations
 - Diana received a new business inquiry that would provide training/apprenticeships in permanent makeup/cosmetic tattooing.
 - Current Board of Health Regulations do not include a provision for an apprenticeship license, or a variance request process.
 - Staff will research regulations in place for other cities/towns, and draft an updated regulation for review by the Board members.
- Rats

- There have been 6 new complaints.
- The property owner of the Dunkins' on Church Street is working with the food establishment to eradicate recent rat sightings in the area.
- There have been no new Smartbox captures since mid-December. Wes followed up with the company to confirm the boxes are working.
- Social Media
 - Postings included 3 vaccine clinics and information about the Opioid Abatement survey.
- MWRA Report
 - COVID-19 cases were up.
- Opioid Settlement Funds
 - The December Meeting was canceled due to scheduling conflicts. The next Meeting is scheduled for January 16th.
- Public Health Excellence (PHE) Grant
 - Five interviews were held last week for two new Public Health Specialist positions.
- Pure Coat North Update
 - Staff met with DEP Senior Regional Counsel and DEP Regional Permit Chief on December 7th.
 - A copy of the June 22nd inspection could not be shared with Belmont pending ongoing dialogue between Pure Coat North and DEP.
 - DEP asked Health Dept. staff to notify DEP if any odors are detected in the near future.
- FY25 Budget Meetings
 - Staff met with the Town Administrator and Budget Director on December 14th, and were informed that approximately 20% of the Health Dept. budget will be cut if the override vote fails. The cuts will include elimination of 2 positions, Social Worker and Animal Care and Control Officer.
- Off Leash Dog Permit Program
 - The Board of Health will meet with the Select Board following the adjournment of this public meeting.
 - Wes and Suzanne provided information to the Board members in preparation of this joint meeting.
 - Town Counsel said all groups need to make the program rules together.

The Public Health Nurse/Disease report was reviewed, noting a substantial increase in influenza cases since November.

The Youth and Family Services report was reviewed. Janet reports the new, larger tree debuted at the BSC. 24 children and teens received beautiful gifts. Janet will plan a larger, town-wide effort in 2024.

The Animal Care and Control Officer 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.

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

The Meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne Allen, M.D., M.P.H., Chair