

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 1, 2021
Virtual Meeting

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS PRESENT

Marianne Hartmann, Emily Cilley, and Stephanie Goodman

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT

Jeffrey Vaughan, Director of Public Health and Neia Illingworth, Public Health Nurse

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

OPEN MEETING – ACCEPT/APPROVE PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

- The board approved the May 4, 2021 meeting minutes

COVID-19 UPDATE

- There have been 14 new Covid cases in Swampscott since the last meeting on May 4, 2021. Swampscott had been in the “yellow” since January, entered into the “green” in May, and is now in the “grey”.
- Neia gave a reminder of the definition of “fully vaccinated”: two weeks after the second dose of two-dose series vaccine or dose of a single-dose vaccine.
- Jeff Vaughan updated that all remaining MA state Covid-19 restrictions were lifted on May 29, 2021 with the exception of health care facilities, public transportation, schools, and facilities housing vulnerable populations. Governor Baker will be ending the State of Emergency on June 15, 2021.
- Neia gave a reminder that there are a variety of reasons that individuals may choose to continue wearing masks even though they are no longer required.

COVID-19 VACCINATION UPDATE

- As of May 13, 2021, anyone aged 12 and older who lives, works, or attends school in MA became eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine.
- Swampscott is currently partnering with other local cities and towns to offer a vaccine clinic at Salem State University.

- Jeff Vaughan updated that as of May 27, 2021, 41% of 12-15 year olds in Swampscott and 74% of 16-19 year olds have received their first dose of the Covid vaccine.

VARIANCE REQUESTS FROM SEMI-PUBLIC POOL OPERATORS REGARDING LIFEGUARDS

- Jeff has received variance requests from two condominiums to allow them to require those under 16 to be accompanied at pools during certain hours where lifeguards/monitors are not staffed. Jeff explained Covid added difficulties to lifeguards receiving certifications and that condo associations would still have to make their own choice and have liabilities.
- ON MOTION from Hartmann and SECONDED by Cilley, the board voted to approve the request for Crown Point and Summit Estates.

TEMPORARY BOH AGENT VOTE FOR TITLE V CONSULT WORK – JOHN COULON

- The Health department needs someone to receive certification for Title V. Jeff said John Coulon of Nahant would be willing to serve as a temporary BOH Agent. ON MOTION from Hartmann and SECONDED by Cilley, the board voted to appoint John Coulon.

TOBACCO/NICOTINE DELIVERY DEVICE COMPLIANCE CHECKS

- Compliance checks are being conducted. There was one violation found. It was the business's first time being out of compliance/first offense so they will receive a fine (\$1000) rather than a suspension. Second offense is a fine and seven-day suspension of permit to sell tobacco or nicotine device. Third offense is a one-month suspension. There were seven or eight additional tobacco retailers who received compliance checks, all passed.

NEW BUSINESS: RESTRICTING BALLOONS DISCUSSION

- Jeff stated that some residents have brought to his attention the negative environmental impacts of balloons and have inquired about the possibility of banning their use during Town events. He said the Select Board is also asking for a recommendation from the Board of Health on the matter. The board was in agreement that they needed more time to research before they were able to make a formal recommendation.

HEALTH DIRECTOR REPORT

- Jeff said that the town is dealing with rat issues in a few different areas of Town. He said that these issues are often triggered by improper trash storage and bird feeders.
- The town will begin beach testing for this year shortly.

OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE BOH

- The board recognized the departure of member Stephanie Goodman and wished her well in her academic pursuits as a new nursing student.
- Marianne Hartmann and Neia Illingworth discussed the idea of creating a survey to gather the public's thoughts on social/racial determinants of health to aid the board in figuring out the next steps in how to move forward as a community.
- Neia also suggested a panel for the public regarding the next step of the pandemic, making sure everyone is coping well and providing an opportunity for residents to receive guidance. Neia would like to discuss the best way to conduct something like this while still protecting privacy and suggested perhaps having people submit their questions via a chat function rather than publically.

SCHEDULING OF NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

The next meeting has been scheduled for July 12, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. All board members are in agreement.

ADJOURN

On MOTION by Cilley and SECONDED by Hartmann it was VOTED by roll call to adjourn the meeting. Roll call: Cilley (yes), Hartmann (yes).

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

True Attest,



Diane E. Folan, Administrative Assistant