

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 2, 2022
Virtual Meeting

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS PRESENT

Marianne Hartmann, Emily Cilley, Dr. Peter Sheckman

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT

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

OPEN MEETING

- The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM.

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS

- On MOTION by Cilley and SECONDED by Sheckman, the Board voted to approve prior meeting minutes from April 6, 2022, May 4, 2022, and May 17, 2022. Roll call: Sheckman (yes), Cilley (yes), Hartmann (yes).

REVIEW OF SCOPE OF WORK WITH NE MOSQUITO MANAGEMENT

- Barry Noone and Kimberly Foss from North East Mosquito Management joined the meeting.
- Noone provided an explanation of the organization and what they do. Foss provided an update on mosquito trends. Last year, 28 mosquito batches were sent for testing. No batches tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), but two batches tested positive for West Nile Virus. This raised the Town's risk level to moderate. Later tests resulted in no positive West Nile results.
- The most recent West Nile event in Swampscott was in 2016. No recent EEE event. Two pesticide exemption requests were filed by Town residents in 2021.
- Dr. Sheckman asked how many sites are typically treated in a town the side of Swampscott. Foss said that they treated 18 historical sites during their recent treatments but that it can vary based on factors like precipitation levels. She will send a list of the sites to the Board.
- A PowerPoint and other informational material are available at www.nemassmosquito.org.

DISCUSSION / POSSIBLE SIGNING REGARDING NEW SCHOOL ERAC PERMIT SIGN-OFF

- On MOTION by Sheckman and SECONDED by Cilley, the Board voted to take the agenda out of order to discuss the possible signing regarding the new school ERAC permit. Roll call: Sheckman (yes), Cilley (yes), Hartmann (yes).
- Mike Carroll from Hill International joined the meeting to ask the Board to approve an earth removal permit for blasting at the site for the new elementary school on 10 Whitman Road.
- Cilley asked how long this process would take. Carroll stated that they have not finalized everything with contractors as they do not have a permit and that it will depend on a few factors such as staffing levels. Approximately a couple of months. Cilley asked how many blasts would occur per day. Carroll stated that there would typically be two but at times could be one more or one less.
- Sheckman asked if the construction company shares the cost of contracting with Hill International. They do not.
- Hartmann asked who serves as the clerk of the works. Carroll stated it would be someone from Hill International. Sheckman asked how often they are there. Carroll stated that they will be there every day of work being done.
- Sheckman asked if there could be any issues if there were to be contaminated soil that is blasted and then becomes airborne. Carroll stated that sampling has been done and that there were only a few areas that were contaminated by low levels of things like heavy metal and organic compounds.
- Hartmann asked what will happen if many trees are taken down and/or if wildlife is impacted (such as nests). Carroll stated that they will not be impacting a substantial amount of trees.
- On MOTION from Sheckman and SECONDED by Cilley, the Board voted to approve the permit. Roll call: Sheckman (yes), Cilley (yes), Hartmann (yes).

DISCUSSION WITH ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER – WILDLIFE

- Tabled for a future meeting.

COVID-19 UPDATE

- Neia presented a PowerPoint on Covid-19 updates.
- To date, Swampscott has seen 3477 lab confirmed cases of Covid-19. She noted that this number does not include people who test positive on only a home test.
- There have been over one million deaths due to Covid-19 in the United States.
- According to the CDC's Covid Data Tracker, Essex County is currently considered an area of "high transmission". Neia noted that again, this does not include at-home tests. However, on a community level, Essex County has gone from "high" transmission to "moderate" transmission.
- MWRA wastewater data indicates that Covid-19 cases are trending up.
- BA.2.12.1 is now the most dominant variant in the United States. New variants that will be watched closely as the summer progresses include BA.4 and BA.5.
- The CDC has approved booster doses for those ages 5-11. They are now eligible five months after their vaccine first series is complete.
- The FDA has two meetings scheduled in June to discuss Moderna's Covid-19 vaccine EUA request for ages 6 years through 17 and then Moderna and Pfizer's EUA requests for vaccines for younger children.

- The Stop the Spread locations in Salem and Lynn have closed. However, the location in Revere is still open and Cataldo Ambulance will be taking over the Lynn site.
- At-home tests can be found at a pharmacy, retail store, or online and are covered by insurance including Medicare. U.S. residents can also order free tests on covidtests.gov (limited to two sets of four tests per household and now every home in the U.S. is eligible to order a 3rd round of free at-home tests).
- Massachusetts is scheduled to stop school testing in fall of 2022.
- On May 18, 2022, Massachusetts public health officials confirmed that the state had seen a positive case of monkeypox. As of May 31, over 550 cases had been reported in several countries. Symptoms include fever, headache, sore throat, and a rash. The fatality ratio has been 3-6%.

DISCUSSION / POSSIBLE VOTE REGARDING FACE COVERINGS AT JUNE TOWN MEETING

- Town Moderator Mike McClung joined the meeting.
- McClung stated that at the last Town Meeting in May, there was universal compliance with the mask mandate. He also stated that about six people took advantage of the offer for an alternate entrance and alternate seating location. McClung would like the Board to approve the June 14, 2022 Town Meeting to be in person.
- Cilley asked if Neia had any information on the ages of new lab-confirmed positive cases as she wanted to know how many were school aged children and therefore could not be attributed to the previous Town Meeting. Neia stated that the majority were over 18 and also reminded everyone that case numbers do not include at-home tests.
- McClung asked how many KN95 masks would be available to Town Meeting Members. Jeff stated that they brought a few hundred KN95, N95, and surgical masks to the last Town meeting but that most people brought their own. McClung asked if we could provide them again and it was confirmed.
- On MOTION from Sheckman and SECONDED by Cilley, the Board voted to adopt Order #10 of the Swampscott Board of Health Effective June 14, 2022, at the start of Town Meeting, Mandatory Face Coverings for the entirety of Town Meeting - using the exact same language and reasoning as the prior Order #9 which was in place during May 2022 Town Meeting. Roll call: Sheckman (yes), Cilley (yes), Hartmann (yes).
- McClung stated that he would communicate the mask mandate to Town Meeting members via email.

HEALTH DIRECTOR REPORT

- A yard waste collection is scheduled for next week and one of four hazardous waste days is scheduled for June 15. Pre-registration is required for participation in hazardous waste day and can be done via the Town website.
- Cilley asked what examples of hazardous waste are. Jeff stated that materials include oil based paint, gasoline, antifreeze, pool chemicals, and cleaning products.
- Compliance checks for establishments that sell tobacco were recently conducted. Jeff stated that there are approximately 8 or 9 establishments in Town. The current minimum age to buy tobacco is 21. There was one violation from recent compliance checks. Jeff recapped the repercussions of violations:
 - 1st offense - \$1000 fine

- 2nd offense within 36 months - \$2000 fine, one-week suspension of tobacco sales
 - 3rd offense - \$3000
- Sheckman asked if the Town does compliance checks for dispensaries. Jeff stated that the Town does not participate in compliance checks and that it is all regulated by the Cannabis Control Commission.
- Cilley asked when Pamona is opening. Jeff stated that they were not ready at their last inspection so not just yet.
- Hartmann asked about the status of a property that the Board was expecting to come into receivership and asked if Jeff could give an explanation of the process. Jeff stated that receivership is when there is a property that is in violation of the State sanitary code and that the owner is not responsive so a Town seeks receivership from the Attorney General's office so that they may hire contractors to fix/restore the property and then lien it to the owner or sell it.

OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE BOH

- Hartmann stated that she believes that the gun violence issue in the United States is a Public Health crisis as it is the #1 killer of children between ages 2-18.
- Cilley stated that all doors at the High School are locked at all times except for the main door and that doors are absolutely not to be propped open. Other doors may be accessed by those with badge access only. Sheckman asked if all schools in Swampscot have a front desk greeter. Cilley stated that only the Middle and High School do but that other schools have a camera and that visitors must be buzzed in.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE

- The next meeting has been scheduled for July 12, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

ADJOURN

- On MOTION by Cilley and SECONDED by Sheckman, it was VOTED by roll call to adjourn the meeting. Roll call: Sheckman (yes), Cilley (yes), Hartmann (yes).
- The meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.

True Attest,

Brittney Jones