

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 12, 2023
Virtual Meeting

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS PRESENT

Marianne Hartmann, Peter Sheckman, Alicia Reddin

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT

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

OPEN MEETING

- The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM.

OPEN APPEAL HEARING – MIDDLESEX ROAD RESIDENT

- Appeal applicant did not attend the meeting

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS

- On MOTION by Sheckman and SECONDED by Hartmann, the Board of Health voted to approve prior meeting minutes from April 4, 2023. Sheckman (yes), Hartmann (yes)
- On MOTION by Reddin and SECONDED by Hartmann, the Board of Health voted to approve prior meeting minutes May 11, 2023. Reddin (yes), Hartmann (yes)

VOTE TO CONTINUE TO HAVE J. PICARIELLO REPRESENT BOH ON EARTH REMOVAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- John Picariello is the current BOH liaison to the Earth Removal Advisory Committee. He has been on the ERAC for close to twenty years. His current term as BOH liaison is up.
- On MOTION from Reddin and SECONDED by Sheckman, the Board of Health voted to re-appoint John Picariello as the Board of Health liaison to the Earth Removal Advisory Committee. Hartmann (yes), Sheckman (yes), Reddin (yes)

DISCUSS ACTIONS TO ASSIST SWAC WITH PLASTIC TAKE-OUT CONTAINER INFORMATION SEARCH

- Sheckman stated that he suggests the Board should learn more about forever chemicals, research and gain an understanding on what changes are in process at the State Senate level, and then make a recommendation. Sheckman stated that he does not feel that the Board has enough information to recommend anything but that he does intend to become more educated.
- Reddin stated that it appears as though research on the subject by a higher level is not complete. Given that, she is not sure that the Board should make a recommendation so early.
- Sheckman stated that the current bill proposal on PFAS, MA Senate Bill S.1356, is not set to be finalized until 2025.
- Sheckman stated that without a State regulation, business owners in Swampscott who are asked to use different products and materials may not agree.

PH NURSE / PH EMERGENCY MGMT. COORDINATOR UPDATE

COVID UPDATES

- Despite the Public Health Emergency ending on May 11, 2023, the Massachusetts Isolation and Quarantine Guidance is still the same (and has been the same since fall of 2022):
 - If you test positive for COVID: Stay home for at least five days, then (if symptoms are improving*), you can end home isolation on day 6 as long as you are masking around others (days 6-10)
 - Close contacts: No need to quarantine if asymptomatic, but must wear a mask for 10 days following exposure. Test on day 6 or if symptoms develop

OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES

- The regional Diaper/wipes drive was very successful
- The Health Departments on the North Shore have applied for a regional grant that will help with purchasing materials/supplies for the upcoming flu season
- Neia has been working with the Senior Center to educate residents about climate change and the benefits of composting. The group is working on implementing a composting program at the Senior Center.
- Neia provided a link to www.airnow.gov and explained that users can enter their zipcodes and receive information, warnings, and suggestions for a variety of matters regarding air quality following the fires in Canada.
- The Narcan Distribution program has launched. Neia is hosting trainings where attendees can learn how to prevent, recognize, and respond to an opioid overdose. The first training was last week and the next training is scheduled for Wednesday, June 14th at the Senior Center. Those who attend and complete training will be given free Narcan as well as free fentanyl test strips along with prevention information and resources. Registration is required so that an adequate number of kits are brought to the trainings, but it is just for headcount purposes and no personal information is obtained. Neia is also available for personal training sessions. Anyone with questions can call the Swampscott Health Department.
- Neia is attending a training to become a CPR instructor at the end of June.
- Sheckman asked if the Health Department is planning any COVID vaccine clinics for the fall. Neia stated that they are usually regional so she is not sure and also mentioned that vaccine

availability may change as supply changes. She did state that flu vaccine clinics will take place in the fall.

- Reddin asked if any more diaper drives are scheduled. Neia stated that it was a regional effort that is scheduled for every April so the next one is scheduled for April.
- Reddin asked how the Board can obtain copies of flyers for events/initiatives to help share and spread. Neia stated that they are posted on the website and usually Facebook as well.
- Reddin asked how it would work to implement composting at Swampscott Public Schools like how it is being done at the Senior Center. Jeff stated that it is currently being done at the Middle School and High School, with future plans for other municipal buildings and hopefully the community.

HEALTH DIRECTOR REPORT

- Wednesday, June 14, 2023, will be the first beach water testing session. Weekly water samples are collected from June through August every year. Samples with bacteria that exceeds standards on two consecutive days requires signage must be posted advising swimmers until samples have acceptable standards
- Sheckman stated that he drove by a beach in Lynn and saw that the flags were up. He asked if Lynn and Swampscott can have different results. Jeff stated that they can because of flow/current, wind, where samples are taken from (proximity to storm drain), when samples are taken (if shortly after heavy rain), and other factors. Jeff also stated that an outside vendor does the testing in Lynn and they do it more frequently, which can lead to more frequent flagging
- Select Board member Mary Ellen Fletcher stated that she has received a lot of calls from residents asking why Swampscott beaches do not get shut down if Lynn beaches are. She will relay the information Jeff provided

OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE BOH

- Resident Cheryl Levenson spoke regarding a recent hearing on rodenticides/pesticides. State Rep. Armini had asked Cheryl to testify on the matter. The bill is moving along

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE

- The next meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 6 PM

ADJOURN

- On MOTION by Sheckman and SECONDED by Reddin, it was VOTED by roll call to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
- The meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM

True Attest,

Brittney Jones