

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 4, 2023
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; Neia Illingworth, Public Health Nurse

OPEN MEETING

- The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM.

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 March 7, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

PH NURSE / PH EMERGENCY MGMT. COORDINATOR UPDATE

COVID UPDATES

- As of April 4, 2023, Swampscott has had 4300 lab-confirmed cases. This total does not include at-home tests or presumed positives.
- Average Daily Incidence Rate as of March 30, 2023 was 1.9
- Essex County is in the “green” or “low” transmission.
- Dominant variants:
 - XBB.1.5 – 87.9%
 - XBB.1.9.1 – 4.6%
 - XBB – 2.5%
- Covid-19 testing updates:
 - The Stop the Spread program ended on March 31, 2023
 - Rapid antigen (at-home) tests are still covered by insurance as required by the federal government.
 - The first over-the-counter at-home test to detect both Covid-19 and influenza has been released.

- The Department of Public Health will continue to recommend the CDC's isolation and quarantine guidance despite the scheduled end of the public health emergency.
- On March 16, 2023, Gov. Healey announced the state's public health emergency will end on May 11, 2023.
- On March 30, 2023, President Biden signed legislation to end the national public health emergency early. Exact date TBD.

OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES

- Supporting/participating in regional efforts:
 - PHE meetings
 - PHN meetings
 - NS MVP
 - Diaper Drive

NALAXONE PROGRAM UPDATE

- Since the last meeting, the Health Department has received both the Narcan as well as fentanyl test strips. Neia has created promotional materials and is now in the process of creating a training and then will schedule training appointments. To schedule an appointment, people can call the Swampscott Health Department.
- Sheckman asked about the availability of Narcan at pharmacies. Neia stated that in MA, anyone with health insurance can get Narcan from a pharmacy at no cost and without a prescription. She also stated that it was recently approved for OTC purchase, but a purchase price has not been set by the manufacturer, so it is not available yet.
- Sheckman asked if there is any data on the number of overdoses in Swampscott. Neia stated that they do not have the data on Swampscott specifically. Hartmann stated that the police should have data on overdose calls they respond to.

DIAPER DRIVE INITIATIVE

- The Swampscott Health Department is participating in a regional diaper drive from April 3-April 28. Diapers and wipes can be dropped off at Town Hall and at the library during regular business hours.

BODY ART REGULATION UPDATE – ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RECEIVED BY THE BOARD

- Should there be a protocol for if a practitioner is stuck by a needle? – Yes, the practitioner must inform the board of an injury within a certain amount of time as well as follow set standards/procedures.

LIFEGUARD VARIANCE REQUESTS

- State sanitary code for semi-public and public swimming pools dictates that the operator shall provide one or more lifeguards 16 years of age or older if the Board of Health determines that they are necessary for the safe use of the swimming or wading pool. The Board, when determining whether there is a need for one or more lifeguards and the number of on-duty lifeguards to be present at the pool at any one time, shall take into account the size, shape and

capacity of the swimming or wading pool. If no lifeguards are required by the Board of Health, signage will be required stating that there is no lifeguard on duty, children under 16 cannot swim alone without an adult present, and that adults cannot swim alone.

- Summit Estates – pool is open 8 am to 8 pm. Variance requested to keep the pool open from 5 pm to 8 pm with no lifeguard or pool monitor on duty so long as they have proper signage indicating such. The variance was approved by the Board last year. On MOTION by Sheckman and SECONDED by Cilley, the Board voted to approve this variance request. The motion passed unanimously.
- Crown Pointe – pool is open 8 am to 8 pm. Variance requested to keep the pool open from 8 am to 10 am and from 5 pm to 8 pm with a pool attendant on duty when a lifeguard is not available. Additional variance requested to keep the pool open from 8 am to 10 am and from 5 pm to 8 pm with no staff on duty if neither a pool attendant nor lifeguard is available. On MOTION by Sheckman and SECONDED by Cilley, the Board voted to approve this variance request. The motion passed unanimously.

HEALTH DIRECTOR REPORT

- Still waiting on Planning approval for restaurant seeking former Zestfriendz space.
- Last year there were 3 sunscreen dispenser stations outside (DPW yard, Phillips Beach, and New Ocean Beach). There will be 3-4 more this year.

OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE BOH

- Sheckman attended a Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting and stated that he learned that black plastic is not recycled as the machines cannot read it properly as recyclable/plastic. He would like to look into banning the use of black plastics. Jeff stated that he will send information out to restaurants asking them to use other plastics if available. Sheckman asked how they could get it banned. Jeff stated that it would likely be a Town Meeting warrant and that they probably cannot get it on the warrant for the upcoming Annual Town Meeting but could try for the next Special Town Meeting.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE

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

ADJOURN

- On MOTION by Cilley and SECONDED by Sheckman, it was VOTED by roll call to adjourn the meeting.
- The meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM.

True Attest,

Brittney Jones