



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

# Town of Westwood

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
**BOARD OF HEALTH**

*Jared Orsini, REHS/RS, Health Director*  
*Jason Belmonte, Food Inspector/Sanitarian*  
*Lorraine Donovan, Administrative Assistant*  
*Tiffany McCarthy, R.N., B.S.N., Public Health Nurse*

*James M. O'Sullivan, J.D, Chairperson*  
*Carol Ahearn, R.N., B.S.N*  
*Roger L. Christian, M.D.*

Minutes of the Westwood Board of Health meeting held on September 10, 2019

The meeting began at 5:05PM and was held at the Carby Street Municipal Office Building, 50 Carby Street, Westwood.

Members Present: Jim O'Sullivan, JD, Chairperson  
Carol Ahearn, R.N., B.S.N  
Roger Christian, M.D.

Staff Present: Jared Orsini, REHS/RS, Health Director  
Jason Belmonte, Food Inspector/Sanitarian  
Lorraine Donovan, Administrative Assistant  
Tiffany McCarthy, R.N., B.S.N., Public Health Nurse

Others Present: Nora Loughnane, Director Community & Economic Development

### **Approval of Minutes: May 14, 2019**

Mr. O'Sullivan moved to approve the minutes, Ms. Ahearn seconded, approved 3-0-0.

### **Update – Failure to decommission an irrigation well at 70 Walker Rd by April 30, 2019 deadline:**

Mr. Orsini explains to the Board that the work to decommission the irrigation well has finally been done. This has been an ongoing issue for over a year. There are fines totaling \$900.00 that are still outstanding. Mr. Orsini is working with Town Counsel to resolve the matter.

### **Public Health Nurse Report: Flu Season update and vaccine delay:**

Ms. McCarthy is here to update the Board on the delay in the flu vaccine shipment this year. Sanofi Pasteur, our flu provider, has indicated the shipments will be delayed by 3-4 weeks and we cannot expect all of our vaccine until sometime in November. The complete order of 50 doses of High Dose will arrive in the next week. A total of 810 doses of pre-filled quadrivalent vaccine will be sent in various shipments that could extend into November. This information requires the Health Department to come up with an alternative plan to replace the one day Flu Clinic usually held in October.

Ms. McCarthy recommends we hold 3 or 4 smaller clinics as vaccine arrives. She will also administer flu shots during office hours. Ms. McCarthy is reaching out to nurses on our MRC to ask for some assistance during these smaller clinics in October and November. Ms. Ahearn offers her nursing assistance and also explains that this is how the flu clinics were run years ago before there was just a one day clinic. Mr. O'Sullivan and Dr. Christian also offer to assist if needed.

## **Health Director Report: EE surveillance, Tobacco Regulation Revision, Westwood Day:**

### **EEE surveillance**

On August 29, 2019 the MA Dept. of Health and Human Services raised the risk level for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in Westwood to MODERATE. The Health Department has been monitoring the spread of EEE throughout Norfolk County since early Summer. The surveillance reports show the EEE threat is intensifying each day. Westwood is now abutting several communities that have discovered infected mosquitoes, so it is important that residents take this matter seriously. Information from MA DPH is on the website and a robo call has gone out to residents advising them of the spraying for mosquitoes that was done by Norfolk County Mosquito Control in neighborhoods near the schools. Sports teams have adjusted their practice and game schedules to try to prevent exposure after dusk. Westwood Day has also cancelled the fireworks show and the football game time is going to change to an afternoon time slot as well. Norfolk County Mosquito Control will continue to spray Westwood on Wednesday evenings if residents request service. This application is conducted from a truck on the street and this application is not a personal property spray. The State will also be doing aerial spraying in Norfolk County and throughout Massachusetts as the increase in EEE poses a public health threat.

Mr. Orsini explains that if the level is raised to High or Critical in Westwood the Board has the authority to issue an order to close public parks and spaces. Mr. O'Sullivan asks how that would be enforced and Mr. Orsini explains the Police would enforce the order. Mr. O'Sullivan would like to give Mr. Orsini the authority to make this decision if the level is raised; the Board unanimously agrees. Mr. Orsini will also reach out to Xaverian High School to see what their plan is.

### **Tobacco Regulation Revision:**

Mr. Orsini presents some revisions he and Ms. Loughnane have discussed regarding the current Tobacco Regulations. With the increase in concerns about vaping, The Board could decide to limit the number of tobacco permits to 4, right now 10 are allowed. They could also prohibit smoking in Cigar Bars, which has been done in other towns as well. Any changes the Board decides to make could be considered after they hear the presentation from Dr. Hartman. A public hearing would need also need to be held. The Board agrees to wait until after Dr. Hartman's presentation before they make any changes to the regulations.

### **Westwood Day**

Mr. Orsini & Mr. Belmonte will be conducting the inspections of all food vendors on Westwood Day, September 21<sup>st</sup>. There are eleven food vendors and many are returning from last year.

### **Variance request to use Time as a Public Health Control – Toast Office**

The Toast Office has requested a variance for their hollandaise sauce. Mr. Orsini has no issues with the request and he provides the Board with a copy of the section of the food code

that outlines Using Time as a Public Health Control. The cook would make the sauce and after 4 hours they would discard what is not used. Mr. Orsini asks the Board if they would allow him to make decisions regarding these types of variances going forward. The Board unanimously agrees to allow him to grant or deny these types of variances going forward.

**Presentation of the request by Dr. Lester Hartman to attend the October meeting to discuss his tobacco initiative:**

Dr. Hartman would like to attend the October meeting to once again present his initiative to request the Board consider banning the federally protected mint and menthol tobacco flavors. Mr. Orsini is not ready to make recommendations to the Board until after Dr. Hartman presents his initiative. The Board heard from Dr. Hartman at their February 19, 2019 meeting. At that time, they were not ready to make any changes to the Tobacco Regulations without a Health Director's input. Mr. Pat Ahearn is the new Town Counsel and he would be able to assist in any action the Board decides to take. There would need to be a public hearing if the Board decides to change the regulations, which would mostly likely be the at the November or December meeting. Ms. Loughnane recommends having Town Counsel sit in on any meeting between Mr. Orsini and Dr. Hartman. Her primary concern is that prohibiting the protected flavors would encourage a Vape Shop to potentially open in Westwood, since they are not prohibited and classified as a retail operation.

Mr. O'Sullivan & Ms. Ahearn recommend that Mr. Orsini find out what other towns are doing on this issue. Mr. O'Sullivan would also like Mr. Orsini and Dr. Hartman to meet prior to the October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting in order to have a streamlined presentation on this topic for the Board.

**Black Earth Compost Company:**

Black Earth is a composting company would like to operate in Westwood and they have applied for a waste hauler permit. They will collect food scrapes from households and make it into compost. They will provide the resident with a plastic storage container that is sealed and rodent proof. Mr. Orsini has no issues with this vendor and thinks this is a valuable service to offer. He has also let the Police Dept. know they will be operating here. Black Earth will be doing a demonstration at Westwood Day to advertise their services.

**Alteration of the fee for Plan Review for existing establishments:**

Mr. Orsini would like the Board to consider adding a fee to the fee schedule when there is an alteration to an existing establishment. Currently, there is a plan review base fee of \$150 that is charged when there is a plan review for an entire food establishment. When a restaurant wants to change equipment or their menu there is a review by the Health Department but there is no fee in place. Mr. Orsini proposes a fee of \$30, which is 20% of the plan review base fee. The Board questions if the current fees are in line with other towns and Mr. Orsini thinks they are possibly lower than most. He will do a fee analysis in the coming months and report back to the Board any recommendation to increase the Health Department fees. Mr. O'Sullivan makes a motion to create a \$30.00 plan review alteration fee, Dr. Christian seconded, approved 3-0-0.

Meeting adjourned 5:57PM