



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 May 19, 2020

The meeting began at 2:05PM and was held by remote participation via Zoom, Westwood Media hosting and live streaming.

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., Public Health Nurse

Approval of Minutes: April 21, 2020

Dr. Christian moved to approve the minutes, Ms. Ahearn seconded, approved 3-0-0.

Annual Appointment of Animal Inspectors:

Laura Fiske, Barn Inspector, Paul Jolicoeur, Animal Control Officer, Jason Roberts, Assistant Animal Control Officer and Carolyn Thorne, DVM would like to continue as animal inspectors for the next year. Dr. Christian moved to approve the appointments and Mr. O'Sullivan seconded, motion approved to re-appoint all four animal inspectors, 3-0-0. Roll call of members taken, all members in consensus to approve these four animal inspectors.

Annual Appointment of Burial Agents:

Dottie Powers, Town Clerk has accepted another one year term as Burial Agent. Ms. Teresa Riordan, Assistant Town Clerk has accepted another one year term as Burial Agent. Mr. O'Sullivan motions to approve all appointments, Ms. Ahearn seconded, approved 3-0-0. Roll call of members taken, all members in consensus to approve these two burial agents.

Health Director Report: COVID-19 Updates:

Town Meeting

Mr. O'Sullivan is also the Town Moderator and he has submitted a list of 7 questions to Mr. Orsini regarding safety measures for the upcoming Town Meeting in June. Mr. O'Sullivan states that because he is serving in a dual role on this issue, he sought the opinion of the State Ethics Commission. He was advised to submit a Section 23B Disclosure Statement and the State Ethics Commission decided that Mr. O'Sullivan can participate as a member of the Board of Health in decisions regarding this matter as it relates to COVID-19 and safety measures for Town Meeting. Ms. Ahearn and Dr. Christian have reviewed the list of questions submitted by Mr. O'Sullivan.

Mr. Orsini explains that there are a number of things to consider, first being whether this should be an indoor or outdoor event. There is a possibility that the quorum of 175 will be reduced, due to the State of Emergency. Town Counsel is attempting to get injunctive relief from the superior court to have the quorum reduced to about 44 or so.

At this time, the Town Meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2020 but may be delayed. Other members of town government have met to see the space at the high school gym. The select board will ultimately make the decision on where the meeting is held.

The Board discusses the safety procedures and issues that would need to be addressed whether it's held indoors or outdoors. Mr. Orsini does not believe temperature checks will be required for attendees, however, social distancing guidelines, hand sanitizer and masks should be. A checklist could be developed and we could have attendees complete a health questionnaire.

Mr. O'Sullivan has concerns about the HVAC system at the high school being very loud. Mr. Orsini has not been in the gym when the system is on, but he agrees having air circulation on would be better when indoors. Ms. Ahearn has concerns about the weather if the event is held outdoors and she thinks attendance may end up being much lower at town meeting this year. Dr. Christian also has concerns about mosquitoes, if the event is held outside. Mr. Orsini states there are restrictions on pesticide spraying on school property and the school department would have to be involved in that decision. Mr. O'Sullivan makes a motion to direct Mr. Orsini, in his role as Health Director, to develop a COVID safety plan recommendation for participants. Dr. Christian seconded the motion, approved 3-0-0 to have Mr. Orsini submit a COVID safety plan for Town Meeting. Roll call of all members taken and they were in consensus.

Health Director Update:

Mr. Orsini states there have been 101 COVID cases since testing began, substantially lower number of cases are coming in now weekly.

The state will have a 4 part re-opening plan and the department will be gearing up for restaurants to resume indoor dining at some point. Outdoor dining will be allowed first and restaurant operators will have to adjust to the challenges this may pose. Guidance for summer camps is still pending and we will be anxious to have this information soon to be ready to assist camps that intend to operate in Westwood.

Public Health Nurse Report:

Ms. McCarthy has primarily been dealing with COVID cases in MAVEN, she has not had other reportable

cases of other diseases in April. The state is now doing the contact tracing, which has been very helpful. Anyone who has antibody testing needs to be considered "positive" for COVID and needs to self isolate. If they do not want to isolate they then need to have a nasal swab to confirm they are negative for COVID. Mr. O'Sullivan asks how people respond to phone calls from Ms. McCarthy and she said for the most part people have been cooperative in about 50% of the cases she has handled.

Mr. O'Sullivan thanks the Health Department staff for all the work they have been doing in dealing with the challenges the COVID pandemic has presented.

Meeting adjourned 3:05PM