



Town of Westwood
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
BOARD OF HEALTH



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

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

Minutes of the Westwood Board of Health meeting held on June 16, 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

Approval of Minutes: May 19, 2020

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

Appointment of Henry D'Angelo, MD - Board of Health Physician:

The Board unanimously voted to reappoint Dr. D'Angelo as Board of Health Physician for 2021. Roll call taken, all in consensus.

Reorganization of the Board of Health for FY21:

The Board discusses the reorganization and Dr. Christian volunteers to be the new chairperson for FY21 and Mr. O'Sullivan nominates Dr. Christian, roll call taken, all in consensus.

Health Director Report:

Town Meeting:

Mr. Orsini will attend Town Meeting tomorrow evening, June 17, 2020. Town Meeting will be held outside at Westwood High School. Mr. O'Sullivan has asked Mr. Orsini to develop a COVID safety plan recommendation for participants. Mr. Orsini will be onsite to address any concerns regarding these protocols, such as social distancing and mask use in order to reduce the spread of COVID. Dr. Christian asks if masks will be available for attendees and Mr. Orsini will have masks available for those who request one.

COVID-19 Updates:

Mr. O'Sullivan asks Mr. Orsini if the Health Department has sufficient staff to address the ongoing issues the COVID pandemic has presented. Mr. Orsini acknowledges the Health Department staff have all been working diligently and have gone over and above their responsibilities to meet the additional demands on the department at this time.

Mr. Orsini has contacted Linda Shea, former Health Director, to assist in reviewing camp applications for standard operation procedures and COVID safety plans. It is not known yet whether many of the camps that bring children on buses to Hale will be coming or not. Mr. O'Sullivan inquires if there is a limit to how many children can be seated on a bus. Mr. Orsini believes the capacity is normally 50 children and with the proposed guidelines, it could be reduced to 15 including the driver.

Mr. O'Sullivan also questions how many restaurants are trying to open with outdoor seating and Mr. Orsini explains about 5 or 6 are applying for the proper licensing and those already with outdoor seating have been given guidelines on socially distancing tables. There is no seating allowed directly at a restaurant bar but tables can be in the bar area.

As the various phases of reopening begin, restaurant, outdoor pool and camp inspections will need to be done. If there is the need for additional staff, Mr. Orsini will inform the Board.

Last week there were zero COVID cases reported to the Town and there have been 122 total cases since the start. A free pop up testing program by DPH June 17 & 18 we will post on our website this is in response to some of the large gatherings over the past few weeks. The locations are not close to Westwood but there will be many in the area.

EEE and ticks will also be a concern in the coming months. We will start an educational campaign on avoiding mosquito and tick bites and we will remind residents how to request service from Norfolk County Mosquito Control district. If there are EEE mosquitoes identified in Westwood we will address the potential safety measures needed for the sports fields, etc.

Public Health Nurse Report:

Mr. McCarthy could not attend today's meeting; her report has been distributed to the Board members.

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.

Mr. Orsini would like to give all the credit he can to Tiffany McCarthy, RN for the work she has done in contacting COVID positive residents, in order to contain the transmission of the virus. Prior to the State providing assistance with contact tracing, she was the only one making numerous calls daily and there is no doubt that Ms. McCarthy saved lives and he is very proud of the work she has done.

Meeting adjourned 3:05PM