



Town of Westwood
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
BOARD OF HEALTH

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Jared Orsini, REHS/RS, Health Director
Jason Belmonte, REHS/RS, Food Inspector/Sanitarian
Lorraine Donovan, Administrative Assistant
Margaret M. Sullivan, R.N., M.S.N., Public Health Nurse

Roger L. Christian, M.D., Chairperson
Carol Ahearn, R.N., B.S.N
Shelley Reeve, R.N., B.S.N., J.D

Minutes of the Westwood Board of Health meeting held on April 20, 2021

The meeting began at 4:40PM and was held by remote participation via Zoom, Westwood Media hosting and live streaming.

Members Present: Roger Christian, M.D., Chairperson
Carol Ahearn, R.N., B.S.N.
Shelley Reeve, R.N., B.S.N., J.D.

Staff Present: Jared Orsini, REHS/RS, Health Director
Lorraine Donovan, Administrative Assistant
Margaret M. Sullivan, R.N., M.S.N., Public Health Nurse

Approval of Minutes: March 9, 2021

Ms. Ahearn moved to approve the minutes, Ms. Reeve 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.

Ms. Ahearn moved to approve the appointments and Ms. Reeve seconded, motion approved to re-appoint all four animal inspectors, 3-0-0.

Roll call of members taken, all members in consensus to reappoint these four animal inspectors.

Public Health Nurse Report:

Ms. Sullivan has continued daily contact tracing for COVID cases. There has been one case of Campylobacter reported in MAVEN (Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network) this month. This can cause bloody diarrhea, fatigue and fever and the cause is usually undercooked poultry, contaminated milk or inadequate handwashing. Those at highest risk for serious symptoms are people over 65, pregnant or people with compromised immune systems.

Health Director Report:

Vote to extend expiration date of permits expiring during State of Emergency for 3 months

Mr. Orsini would like the Board to extend food permits that are expiring May 31, 2021 by 3 months. This would allow the department additional time to review and process applications as we continue to navigate COVID issues that have been so time consuming. Camp, Pool and Beach applications will need to be reviewed in the next month or two and an extension will allow staff to focus on those first as well.

Dr. Christian makes a motion to extend food permits for 3 months, Ms. Ahearn seconded, approved 3-0-0.

Town COVID-19 Town Monitoring:

There has been an increase in COVID cases, but not as significant as the winter surge. There were 71 cases in March and 77 so far in April. Half the people are under 19 here in the new case count, however, we cannot confirm if it is related to any variants. Positive cases in children makes contact tracing very difficult, due to the fact they come in contact with many people between school and sports, etc. The schools are doing a great job especially with the volume they have when contact tracing.

We continue to reinforce guidance requirements and remind residents not to attend oversized gatherings, to wear masks and stay at home when not feeling well. We have ordered more lawn signs to encourage social distancing and masks. As of April 19th all MA residents can get the vaccine, except for children under 16. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine has been paused for the time being due to safety concerns and there is no timeline as to when it will resume distribution.

Dr. Christian asks about COVID variants and how the State knows if they are here. Mr. Orsini explains they do random sampling and the UK strain is the predominant variant at this time. It can be difficult to go back and trace a positive sample for additional testing for a variant strain if the laboratory has disposed of the sample, which typically happens within one or two days simply due to the volume of tests a lab is doing.

Brigham & Women's Health Care Center attending May meeting regarding a geothermal well:

Mr. Orsini has been asked by representatives from the Brigham & Women's Health Care Center if they can present a plan to the Board for a geothermal well & solar panel project for their site here in Westwood. The Health Department permits private drinking water, irrigation and geothermal wells according to the Westwood Private Well Regulation; there is a section in the regulation that prohibits wells in certain zones. This site is of concern because the location is a source of drinking water wells.

The Town and Dedham Westwood Water have been in discussion with B&W and a consultant has been hired to compile a report regarding this project.

Ms. Reeve asks if the consultant is being hired and paid by DWWD and Mr. Orsini responds that he believes they were hired by the water district and are working on behalf of the Town as well.

The Board agrees they will hear a presentation regarding this issue from the Brigham & Women's Health Care Center representatives at their May meeting. Mr. Orsini will provide the Board with copies of the independent report prior to the meeting.

Dr. Christian asks Mr. Orsini about Town Meeting and any COVID safety concerns. The meeting is May 3, 2021 and Mr. Orsini will be in attendance. He has no concerns at this time and believes it

will be a safe, outdoor event again this year.

Department staff will be attending an online training by the State over the next two weeks to find out more about summer camps. There have been some inquiries, but no formal camp applications have been submitted at this point.

Meeting adjourned 5:15PM