

Town of Westwood

Commonwealth of Massachusetts **BOARD OF HEALTH**

Jared Orsini, REHS/RS, Health Director Lorraine Donovan, Administrative Assistant Margaret M. Sullivan, R.N., M.S.N., Public Health Nurse Ivan Kwaqala, REHS/RS, Food Inspector/Sanitarian Roger L. Christian, M.D., Chairperson Carol Ahearn, R.N., B.S.N Shelley Reever, R.N., B.S.N., J.D

Minutes of the Westwood Board of Health meeting held on May 24, 2022

The meeting began at 5:00 PM and was held at the Carby Street Municipal Office Building, 50 Carby Street, Westwood.

Members Present: Carol Ahearn, R.N., B.S.N.

Shelley Reever, 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 Ivan Kwagala, REHS/RS, Food Inspector/Sanitarian

Approval of Minutes: April 19, 2022

Ms. Ahearn moved to approve the minutes with corrections, Ms. Reever seconded, approved 2-0-0.

Appointment of Burial Agent – Dorothy Power, Town Clerk:

Dorothy Powers, Town Clerk has accepted another one year term as Burial Agent. Ms. Ahearn makes a motion to reappoint Dorothy Powers as Burial Agent, Ms. Reever seconded, Approved 2-0-0.

Approval of Recreational Camp for Children:

F.A.S.T. Athletics

Harlequin Stables Equestrian Camp

Mr. Orsini has received a camp application for F.A.S.T. Athletics, a youth sports camp that is partnering with the Recreation Dept. at multiple fields and dates this summer. They will need a camp permit because they do meet the criteria as a Recreational Camp for Children.

Harlequin Stables has operated here in the past, however, the property is being sold and the new owners need the approval of the Board in order to operate the camp.

Ms. Ahearn makes a motion to authorize camp permits for both F.A.S.T. Athletics and Harlequin Stables Equestrian Camp, Mr. Reever seconded, approved 2-0-0.

Public Health Nurse Report:

Ms. Sullivan has still seen flu cases coming into the MAVEN system, 19 reported since April 15th. Range in ages is 3-90 year's old, there was one hospitalization of someone over 60 who also had COVID. There is also one potential case of Hepatitis B.

Health Director Report COVID-19 Updates

Mr. Orsini reports that Monkey Pox was discussed on a DPH Zoom today and it was explained that the virus is not highly contagious unless someone has direct contact with the lesions that present with this pox type virus. Ms. Sullivan explains that there has been one case in MA and about 130 world wide so far. This seems to be a common strain that was first identified in 2018. The smallpox vaccine is effective in preventing this virus and there is no concern regarding a vaccine shortage at this time.

COVID is still present and there have been about 150 cases reported in the past 2 weeks. This strain is spread at a higher level, but there are fewer hospitalizations and fatalities. COVID contact tracing is not impacting a reduction in COVID numbers and Mr. Orsini believes it is time to start to step back from contacting every resident when a case comes in. It would appear that COVID is going to have to be something we learn to live with and contact tracing has not been a mandate in MA since last December. Recreational camps are starting soon and Ms. Sullivan will be needed to assist with the hundreds of camp medical applications and protocols that need to be reviewed.

Ms. Reever asks about how COVID will be dealt with by camps this summer and Mr. Orsini explains DPH is not mandating any protocol. Every camp will have their own policy and most likely they will contact the Health Dept. if they have questions. Mr. Orsini has met with the Hale staff to request that they provide their policy. Most of the Westwood camps are outdoors and we had very few cases in the camps last year. The state will provide home test kits if they are requested by the camps.

Mr. Kwagala does not have a written report; however, he describes his inspections in April.

Meeting adjourned 5:35 PM