



Town of Westwood
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
BOARD OF HEALTH

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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

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 May 16,2023

The meeting began at 4:45PM and was held at the Carby Street Municipal Office Building, 50 Carby Street, Westwood.

Members Present: Roger L. 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
Margaret M. Sullivan, R.N., M.S.N., Public Health Nurse
Jessica S. Kent, Food Inspector/Sanitarian

Approval of Minutes: March 28, 2023

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

Vote: Reduce the permit fee for the Farmer’s Market Vendors from \$50 to \$25:

Mr. Orsini has received an inquiry from a resident interested in having a Farmer’s Market operate at the St. Margaret Mary church parking lot this summer. There had been a Farmer’s Market coordinated by the Town, unfortunately, it only was in operation for a few years. Reducing the \$50 food permit fee to \$25.00 per vendor may draw more vendor interest. Dr. Christian makes a motion to reduce the Farmer’s Market fee from \$50 to \$25, Ms. Ahearn seconded, approved 3-0-0.

Appointment of Animal Inspectors:

Dr. Christian makes a motion to appoint Dr. Carolyn Thorne, Laura Fiske, Jared Orsini & Jessica S. Kent as animal inspectors for FY24, Ms. Ahearn seconded, approved 3-0-0.

Appointment of Burial Agents:

Dorothy Powers, Town Clerk & Brooke A. Congdon, Assistant Town Clerk, have accepted another one year term as Burial Agent.

Ms. Ahearn makes a motion to reappoint Ms. Powers & Ms. Congdon as Burial Agents, Ms. Reeve seconded, Approved 3-0-0.

Public Health Nurse Report:

As of May 11, 2023 the Public Health Emergency for COVID ended. There is still COVID vaccine available at pharmacies and there are still some home test kits here for residents. We do not anticipate receiving more free kits from the state. One of the nursing homes here did have a small cluster of COVID cases, patients had relatively mild symptoms. Ms. Reeve would like the Health Dept. to provide information to residents 65 and older regarding COVID vaccine boosters being available; she suggests some flyers at the COA and for information to go out in the Westwood Wire.

Norovirus, Salmonella, Campylobacter were reported in MAVEN and the source of infection was not here in Westwood, 2 cases were from travel to another country. There was also a case of TB, which appears to be a latent infection. There was also one case of Parapertussis, the symptoms are similar to pertussis but are milder, Ms. Sullivan provides the Board with a fact sheet because it is not seen often.

Mpox, formerly called Monkey Pox, is still out there and recently there was a small outbreak in Chicago. The CDC is advising those at risk to get vaccinated and to seek care if symptomatic.

Health Director Report:

Mr. Orsini and Ms. Kerry McKay hosted a Mental Health First Aid class here on April 27th and 7 people attended. The intent of the class was to offer training to people so they can offer support and resources to someone who appears to be in a mental health crisis. There is a plan to do another class in August and to offer it to more members of the community.

There was a meeting today in Needham regarding the Youth Substance Abuse Coalition and there was a survey that Westwood students participated in and areas to focus on will be vaping, marijuana and alcohol use.

The Board asks about the part time nursing position being advertised for the COA and Mr. Orsini explains this is a position funded by a grant and the nurse will not report to the Health Dept. The COA director and HR came up with the job description and it is advertised as 16 hours per month.

There was a new septic system installed at 552 Gay St. There will be a variance application coming in soon for 299 Clapboardtree St. regarding their irrigation well and the home connecting to sewer. They have to connect to sewer and the new sewer line is within the minimum set back of 10 feet of the irrigation well, which is not in compliance with our private well regulation.

Ms. Orsini had hazmat inspections in April and spring season brings preparation for camps, beach & pool inspections as well.

Ms. Kent has been busy with food inspections and she and Ms. Donovan are working to process all food establishment permit renewals by May 31st. Various documents must be reviewed to make sure certifications are not expired, all applications are done online, which helps the process go smoothly.

There are about 22 kitchens at Gatehouse located at Southwest Park and some are bakeries that have savory baked goods. These baked goods can be challenging because they have meats and cheeses that cannot be sold at room temperature unless they are tested for pH.

The Rotary Club Pancake breakfast took place recently at the high school and Ms. Kent inspected the operation that morning.

There is a proposed new restaurant called Nashville Hot Chicken coming to University Ave, but we have not received anything from them yet.

The tattoo parlor finally opened in the Lambert's Plaza recently, but there is no body piercing at this time.

Meeting adjourned 5:50PM