



TOWN OF BURLINGTON, MA
BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
Virtual Meeting - Cisco WebEx

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021

Board Members Present: Ed Weiner, PhD, Chairman; David McSweeney, Vice Chairman; and Libby Walendziewicz, RN, MSN

Board Members Absent: Dr. Wayne Saltsman, MD, PhD and Maribeth Welch

Staff Members Present: Susan Lumenello, REHS/RS, CHMM, Director of Public Health; Christine Mathis, Environmental Engineer; and Sarah Courtemanche, Board of Health Admin.

Dr. Weiner called the Board of Health meeting to order at 7:00 PM. This will be a remote meeting of the Burlington Board of Health. All votes will be taken by a roll call vote.

Ms. Walendziewicz recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. McSweeney read a statement that due to the current State of Emergency for the COVID-19 virus the Governor has issued an Executive Order on March 12, 2020 authorizing remote meetings under M.G.L c. 30A, Section 20. This meeting is being held via Cisco WebEx as a virtual/electronic meeting. Residents can join the meeting via the WebEx meeting number or by the phone number published on the Town of Burlington website. Residences can also leave questions on the BCAT Facebook page or they can call the Board of Health office.

Approval of Minutes: January 12, 2021 and January 26, 2021

MOTION: Ms. Walendziewicz moved to approve the Board of Health minutes of January 12, 2021 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. McSweeney and unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Walendziewicz, and Dr. Weiner voted in favor. (3-0-0)

MOTION: Ms. Walendziewicz moved to approve the Board of Health minutes of January 26, 2021 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. McSweeney and unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Walendziewicz, and Dr. Weiner voted in favor. (3-0-0)

Citizen's Time: No one called in.

Chairman's Report:

Dr. Weiner stated that it has been a year since we started remote meetings and preparing and chairing remote meetings is not easy. We have faced all the challenges of the last year head on and have utilized plans that were developed long ago including the use of the MRC. We have the experience and expertise to handle the COVID-19 vaccines but the Governor and his staff has decided not to use them. The Burlington Board of Health has held 11 COVID-19 vaccine clinics and was prepared to do much more but the Governor has shut us down as well as our hospitals. Dr. Weiner stated that he is also frustrated with Mass DPH for their lack of



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communication. Our State Legislatures have been advocating for us but have received nothing in return. We have done everything possible to represent the residents of Burlington especially our seniors and disenfranchised but we are being ignored by the State. It has been very frustrating.

Subcommittee Reports: None

Permits:

● ***8 Davida Road – Keeping of Chickens Permit Application***

Weiwei Zhang appeared for the permit application for keeping 4 chickens at her property at 8 Davida Road. Ms. Lumenello stated that Samantha Hardy visited the site for a pre-inspection. The coup on site could accommodate 3 chickens so Ms. Zhang was going to use a shed area to house the fourth chicken. The manure management plan was submitted and the coup meets all setbacks. We recommend approval.

Ms. Zhang stated that she had chickens when she was younger and she would want to keep hens more as pets and will treat them well. She also plans to compost the manure for her garden.

Mr. McSweeney asked if the applicant has raised chickens in the past and has seen the State regulations regarding keeping of chickens. Ms. Zhang replied yes, she had chickens when she was younger and she has seen the regulations.

Warren and Michelle Bridges of 6 Davida Road – Mr. Bridges stated that he had concerns about the chickens flying and going into his pool. He is also concerned that chickens will bring predators close to his house and if diseases could be spread from the chickens. Dr. Weiner stated that he understands the concerns and we make it very clear that if there is a problem we will shut it down and the chickens will have to be removed but we like to give people a chance. Mrs. Bridges stated that their pool is right next to the garden area and asked if the manure is composted in the garden will it smell. Ms. Lumenello stated that many people use the manure in their gardens but it does not smell like cow manure does but if there are any issues please call us.

Mary Sullivan of 10 Davida Road – Ms. Sullivan stated that she was not familiar with chickens so she went online to become more informed. Her concerns were odors, rodents and noise from the chickens. Ms. Sullivan asked if the coup would be covered and would roosters be allowed. Ms. Zhang stated that the enclosure for the chickens will be covered. Mr. McSweeney added that roosters are not allowed in Burlington and chickens are not allowed to roam free.

MOTION: Mr. McSweeney moved to approve the Keeping of 4 Chickens permit at 8 Davida Road. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walendziewicz and unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Walendziewicz, and Dr. Weiner voted in favor. (3-0-0)



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Staff Reports

Environmental Engineer

Ms. Mathis presented her report.

- The Biological Safety permits are in the renewal process.
- The Hazardous Material Registration mailing was sent out and they are due back by March 15th.
- The planning has started for a COVID safe Household Hazardous Waste Day in April.
- There has been follow up with employers for reporting positive employees as well as following up on COVID complaints and investigations.

Dr. Weiner stated that they discussed two groups that will need Biological Safety permits pretty quickly. Ms. Mathis replied that there are two businesses; AMRI at 99 South Bedford Street and Northeastern University. They are going to be doing COVID related work. Both sites currently are inspected under the Hazardous Material registration but they will now have Biologic Safety permits as well.

MOTION: Ms. Walendziewicz moved to approve the Environmental Engineer's report. The motion was seconded by Mr. McSweeney and unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Walendziewicz, and Dr. Weiner voted in favor. (3-0-0)

Director of Public Health

Dr. Weiner stated that the Health Director's report will include the Health Agent's Reports dated 2/9/21 & 2/23/21, the Associate Health Inspector's Report dated 2/11/21, and Supervisory Nurses' Reports dated 1/15/21 & 2/1/21.

Mr. McSweeney asked what was behind the Igloo investigation. Ms. Lumenello stated there are 4 igloos at the Tavern in the Square and there weren't any issues, just questions. Mr. McSweeney stated that he received calls on how they were ventilated, sanitized and does COVID remain in them.

Dr. Weiner pointed out that even with COVID, we are still tracking all other communicable diseases.

Ms. Walendziewicz asked how the COVID vaccine clinic went with Convenient MD. Ms. Lumenello replied it went very well and they were very helpful. Dr. Weiner thanked them again for being a good neighbor.

Ms. Lumenello presented her report:

- The Annual Report has been submitted.
- The COVID vaccine clinics were very successful and they had hoped to do more but they received a letter from the State that local Board of Health's would not be receiving any more vaccines.



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Mr. McSweeney asked if we have a general understanding of how the schools are doing. Ms. Lumenello replied that she speaks with the administration weekly. Their cases are going down just like the Town's cases and there are fewer students on the quarantine list. They are focusing on getting the teachers vaccinated.

Dr. Weiner stated that tomorrow he and Ms. Lumenello will be interviewed by BCAT and extended the invitation to the other Board members.

Dr. Weiner stated that Burlington was approached by other communities about the interest in a vaccine collaborative program. Ms. Lumenello stated that in the letter from the State, there was an opportunity to have a regional collaborative with other towns to setup a vaccine clinics but there are stipulations that state including: they must be open 5 days a week, 750 vaccines a day must be dispensed and it has to be posted on the State website which means anyone can go there not just the residents of the collaborative towns. Our time and resources are better spent for the residents of Burlington and there is no direct benefit to Burlington residents so she declined the offer at this time but will leave it open for the future.

Mr. McSweeney agreed 150% if there is not a direct benefit for our residents but maybe down the road it can be looked at. Ms. Walendziewicz also agreed. She is concerned with the mass vaccination sites being so far from Burlington that our seniors are going to be squeezed out. Dr. Weiner stated that if we joined the collaborative there is no guarantee that any Burlington residents would be able to get it. We have proved that we can conduct a successful vaccine clinic but the system is broken at the State level.

MOTION: Mr. McSweeney moved to approve the Director of Public Health's report including the Health Agent's Report, the Associate Health Inspector's Report, and Supervisory Nurses' Report. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walendziewicz and unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Walendziewicz, and Dr. Weiner voted in favor. (3-0-0)

Adjourn

MOTION: Mr. McSweeney moved to adjourn the Board of Health meeting at 8:01 PM. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walendziewicz unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Walendziewicz, and Dr. Weiner voted in favor. (3-0-0)

*Respectfully Submitted by Dawn Cathcart,
Recording Clerk*



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DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT MEETING – TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021

Agenda

Approval of Minutes: 01/12/21 and 01/26/21

Citizen's Time: None

Chairman's Report: None

Subcommittee Reports: None

Permits:

- ***8 Davida Road – Keeping of Chickens Permit Application:*** Memo from S. Hardy dated 2/9/21, application from W. Zheng

Staff Reports: Environmental Engineer's Report and Director of Public Health's Report (Including Health Agent's Report 2/9/21 & 2/23/21, Associate Health Inspector's Report 2/11/21, and Supervisory Nurses' Report 1/15/21 & 2/1/21)