



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

TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2021

Board Members Present: Ed Weiner, PhD, Chairman; David McSweeney, Vice Chairman; Dr. Wayne Saltsman, MD, PhD and Maribeth Welch, and Libby Walendziewicz, RN, MSN

Board Members Absent: None

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: There were no minutes to approve.

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 and we are all in this together. We continue to work non-stop to get things done. Dr. Weiner stated that Ms. Walendziewicz is retiring and this will be her last Board meeting. Dr. Weiner thanked her and all other Board members and staff for all their hard work.

Permits:

• ***Biological Safety Permit – 147 South Bedford Street, Northeastern University***

Jared Auclair, Elisabeth Clark and Benjamin Fontes appeared for the Biological Safety Permit for 147 South Bedford Street, Northeastern University. Dr. Auclair started the presentation with the ICBM, the Approach and Partnerships for Northeastern University. Ms. Clark stated that they held their first IBC meeting on March 4, 2021 and they plan to meet annually or as needed. There is one lab and they are at BSL-2. They



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have implemented BioRaft software to provide risk assessment and management. They also have a BioSecurity Manual that contains an Exposure Control Plan and this is updated annually. They also provide a robust training program. Mr. Fontes thanked Ms. Mathis for all her help. They have partnered with OEHN for pre and post exposure consultation and immunization. They are working with United Medical Waste Management for the biomedical waste for emergency response and they are also contracted with NEU EHS, Clean Harbors and Donadis Pest Control. There have been no reportable incidents at the Burlington Campus.

Ms. Mathis stated that she attended the first IBC meeting and the Committee reviewed and approved the proposed protocols.

Ms. Lumenello stated that she had a question about the facilities. The permit states the lab will be on the second floor of Elliot Hall but there are two biomedical companies. Will they share the lab? Where is the waste storage for the lab, is it secured? If there is an emergency, will Burlington or Woburn Fire Department be called? Ms. Clark stated that there is only one lab proposed. The waste room is on the first floor of Elliot Hall and is locked but the waste is packaged within the lab for shipment. The building is secured and the lab as well as the storage area is keyed. Dr. Auclair stated that if 911 was dialed, Woburn Fire Department would respond. Ms. Lumenello stated that if Burlington is called, they would want to have a list of what material will be stored in the building. Ms. Mathis stated that this lab will be in Burlington and we will have what material is stored. In the building that is in Woburn, Woburn Fire Department should respond, not Burlington. Mr. McSweeney stated that he is very concerned that in an emergency, that if Burlington Fire Department responds, they will not know what they are walking into. He is not opposed to this but he wants to know what is stored in the lab in Woburn.

Dr. Weiner stated that Burlington has had two chemical incidents in the last two years and one was a fatality, so we are very sensitive to this issue. Dr. Weiner asked if the hazardous material in the Woburn lab be shared with the Burlington Board of Health and Fire Department.

Dr. Saltsman stated that he understands we don't have purview over Woburn but we can't make a decision without knowing what is in the Woburn lab.

Dr. Auclair stated that this permit is for Elliot Hall in Burlington. He can't see why we couldn't share the hazards in Woburn. Dr. Weiner asked if we could add this as a condition. Ms. Lumenello stated that she doesn't believe that would be appropriate. We could ask for the hazardous material list and they could share it as a courtesy but it shouldn't be a condition.

Mr. McSweeney asked if there was a permit for the BVVC building in Woburn. Ms. Clark stated that there is no research in the building in Woburn that would require a biohazard permit. Mr. McSweeney stated that we should make a condition that this permit is only for the Elliot Building and if a research lab or Life Science goes into the other building, they would need to come back and notify the Burlington Health Department. Ms. Lumenello doesn't believe that we can add that as a condition to this permit. We can request that the information be provided.

Dr. Auclair asked if we expanded Life Science into another lab, would we have to come back to the Board. Ms. Mathis replied yes, if it was not approved by the IBC. Ms. Clark stated that she just spoke with the



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Director and we can share the inventory of all buildings with the Burlington Board of Health and we will be holding the lab in Woburn to the same standards as this permit.

Mr. McSweeney asked how does sharing the lab between the two companies work. Dr. Auclair stated that there are two companies but only one is doing rDNA work. Mr. McSweeney asked how this is different from Azzur. Ms. Mathis replied that any company working in the Northeastern facility would need to be approved by the Northeastern IBC unlike Azzur.

Dr. Weiner asked if the Biosafety manual was proprietary? Dr. Auclair invited the Board to visit the lab at any time.

There were no questions from the audience.

MOTION: Dr. Saltsman made a motion to approve the Biological Safety Permit for 147 South Bedford Street, Northeastern University for Elliot Hall. The motion was seconded by Mr. McSweeney and unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Walendziewicz, Dr. Saltsman, Ms. Welch and Dr. Weiner voted in favor. (5-0-0)

Hearings:

Dr. Weiner stated that all outstanding items have been addressed so no hearings are required.

● ***Hazardous Materials Registration Programs***

- *Archer Hotel (18 Third Avenue) – Failure to Submit Form and Fee*
- *Hyatt House (2 Van De Graff Drive) – Failure to Submit Fee*
- *Nouria Energy (140 and 198 Cambridge Street & 61 Middlesex Turnpike) – Failure to Submit Fee*
- *Piedmont Office Realty Trust (25 Burlington Mall Road) – Failure to Submit Fee*

Discussion:

● ***FY2022 Budget***

Ms. Lumenello stated that the FY2022 budget was approved by Ways and Means last week. There is an increase to the salary budget of 13.7% due to the new Associate Health Director's position and a part time administration assistant. They have also requested expanding the revolving fund from \$30,000 to \$40,000 related to vaccinations. All other budget items are being level funded.

Mr. McSweeney asked how we get funding if we have COVID related issues at the end of the fiscal year. Ms. Lumenello stated that we have an emergency account. The Town received money for COVID related expenses and we have been using the fund for the overtime of the nurses.

MOTION: Dr. Saltsman moved to approve the FY2022 Health Department budget. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walendziewicz and unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Walendziewicz, Dr. Saltsman, Ms. Welch and Dr. Weiner voted in favor. (5-0-0)



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Dr. Saltsman asked why the revolving fund is being expanded. Ms. Lumenello stated that will allow us to get extra supplies related to COVID. Dr. Saltsman asked if this could be used to cover any flu vaccination expenses. Ms. Lumenello replied yes. Ms. Lumenello added that this will be a warrant article submitted through the Town Administrator's office. Dr. Weiner stated that this will include reimbursements from COVID and the flu vaccines. Ms. Lumenello replied that was correct.

MOTION: Ms. Walendziewicz moved to approve the increasing the revolving fund from \$30,000 to \$40,000. The motion was seconded by Ms. Welch and unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Walendziewicz, Dr. Saltsman, Ms. Welch and Dr. Weiner voted in favor. (5-0-0)

● ***2021-2022 Influenza Vaccine Purchase***

Dr. Weiner stated that he is going to recuse himself because his son works for the company that the Town purchases some of the vaccine from. Dr. Weiner stepped away from the meeting and Mr. McSweeney took over.

Ms. Lumenello stated that for the 2020-2021 season, they received from the State 180 prefilled (for under 18) and 86 doses were returned. They purchased privately, 200 multi-doses, 500 prefilled and 170 high dose vaccines. They returned 25 high doses and 232 prefilled. The changes for the 2021-2022 season are: the ACIP has not made their recommendations yet and the reimbursement has been changed from 25% to 10%. They can cancel 10% of the order up until the shipment date but they need to order by March 31st. They are considering holding a drive-thru EDS for the flu vaccine but COVID is still the question. Ms. Lumenello recommends the following for the 2021-2022 flu season: stay with the State supplied vaccine for 180 prefilled (for under 18), order 550 prefilled and 165 high dose vaccines privately. If we approve this plan, the cost would be approximately \$19,000. Ms. Lumenello stated that we can order more if the Board feels strongly.

Dr. Saltsman stated that he is concerned that this coming year will be a bad flu season. People will forget to wash their hands, keep social distancing and covering their mouth and nose. He is fine with what is being proposed. This season was a low flu season due to COVID so we can't judge what next year will be based on this year. He would definitely want to continue with the flu clinic and if we give out all our doses so be it. There are other places to get it such as pharmacies and doctor's offices.

Mr. McSweeney agreed that it is important to continue with the flu clinic and asked what the time frame is to cancel the vaccine. Ms. Lumenello replied that the vaccine usually ships late August early September so they can cancel prior to shipment.

MOTION: Dr. Saltsman moved to approve the Director's recommended influenza purchase. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walendziewicz and unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Walendziewicz, Dr. Saltsman, and Ms. Welch voted in favor. (4-0-0)

Dr. Weiner rejoined the meeting.

Staff Reports

Environmental Engineer



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Ms. Mathis presented her report.

- The planning is continuing for a COVID safe Household Hazardous Waste Day. It is scheduled for May 1st at the Francis Wyman School. The information is up on the website.
- All Hazardous Storage registrations are complete.
- The drainage on 207 Cambridge is proposed to start in May. They are still working on a Site Plan approval with the Planning Board also.
- They have begun dredging and dewatering at 101 Middlesex Turnpike. The activity started the week of March 8th and is continuing.

Mr. McSweeney asked if there were regulations online for sump pump discharge. Ms. Mathis replied yes, they are online and discharge can only be infiltrated back onto their own property.

Dr. Weiner asked Ms. Mathis to explain the herbicide that is sprayed under the high tension lines. Ms. Mathis stated that the plant management is regulated by the Mass DAR. They are required to file a 5 year Vegetation Management Plan. They can only use DAR approved herbicides. They are required to submit an annual plan showing which right of ways will be treated, time frame of work, herbicides used and contractor's with licenses.

MOTION: Ms. Welch moved to approve the Environmental Engineer's report. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walendziewicz and unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Walendziewicz, Dr. Saltsman, Ms. Welch and Dr. Weiner voted in favor. (5-0-0)

Director of Public Health

Ms. Lumenello presented her report:

- They partnered with the Housing Authority and were able to give 100 doses to our seniors. There was an overdraft, so they were able to give some vaccines to the school staff. The second doses will be arriving on April 15th.
- They have interviewed for the part-time administrative assistant position. They have narrowed it down and an offer was made.
- Ongoing virtual training is occurring to keep up her required CEUs.

Dr. Weiner asked if we are going to get involved with the homebound vaccination program. Ms. Lumenello replied no. The State has a mobile van and it will come out and give homebound seniors their vaccination. We don't have clear numbers of how many homebound seniors are in Burlington. We suggest they contact the State and they will put the telephone number of the website.

MOTION: Ms. Walendziewicz moved to approve the Director of Public Health's report. The motion was seconded by Dr. Saltsman and unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Walendziewicz, Dr. Saltsman, Ms. Welch and Dr. Weiner voted in favor. (5-0-0)

Dr. Saltsman just got word that the former Health Director, Sharon Mastenbrook, had passed away. Their condolences go out to her family.



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Dr. Weiner stated that Ms. Walendziewicz started with the Board of Health in 2010. She has served this Board with grace, commitment and professionalism. She has made a difference in the Town of Burlington and it has been an honor serving with her.

Dr. Saltsman stated that the ease that our flu clinics operate is due to Ms. Walendziewicz. He thanked her for all her dedication.

Mr. McSweeney stated that he will miss her expertise in nursing and thanked her for her dedication on a professional and personal level.

Ms. Welch stated that Ms. Walendziewicz welcomed her onto the Board and helped her so much. She thanked her for the advice she gave her on being a parent of a nursing student and thanked her for being a friend and mentor.

Ms. Lumenello stated that Ms. Walendziewicz has made a huge difference on this Board and in the Town. She has always stepped up when we needed help and she is so appreciative of that.

Ms. Walendziewicz stated that it has been an honor and privilege to be part of this Board and this is bittersweet. She never got the chance to practice in public health during her nursing career so this let her do that. She started with the MRC and moved onto the Board but she will still remain part of the MRC. She thanked everyone she has served with.

Adjourn

MOTION: Ms. Walendziewicz moved to adjourn the Board of Health meeting at 8:55 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. McSweeney and unanimously approved. On a roll call vote, Mr. McSweeney, Ms. Walendziewicz, Dr. Saltsman, Ms. Welch and Dr. Weiner voted in favor. (5-0-0)

*Respectfully Submitted by Dawn Cathcart,
Recording Clerk*



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DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT MEETING – TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2021

Agenda

Approval of Minutes: None

Citizen's Time: None

Chairman's Report: None

Permits:

- *Biological Safety Permit – 147 South Bedford Street, Northeastern University* – Presentation dated March 23, 2021

Hearings:

- *Hazardous Materials Registration Programs* – Late Hazardous Materials Registration Form Information, Memo from C. Mathis dated March 16, 2021 to businesses
 - *Archer Hotel (18 Third Avenue) – Failure to Submit Form and Fee*
 - *Hyatt House (2 Van De Graff Drive) – Failure to Submit Fee*
 - *Nouria Energy (140 and 198 Cambridge Street & 61 Middlesex Turnpike) – Failure to Submit Fee*
 - *Piedmont Office Realty Trust (25 Burlington Mall Road) – Failure to Submit Fee*

Discussion:

- *FY2022 Budget* – FY2022 Cover Sheet and Budget
- *2021-2022 Influenza Vaccine Purchase* – Sanofi Pasteur Influenza Vaccine Pricing; Email from Shelly Aston to Susan Lumenello dated March 19, 2021

Staff Reports: Environmental Engineer's Report and Director of Public Health's Report