

BOARD OF HEALTH
April 21, 2020
Minutes
Meeting Conducted on Zoom

PRESENT

Health Agent: Bruce Wilson, Jr.
Chairperson: Vincent Forte, Jr.
Vice Chairperson: Patricia Leclair
Member: Kelly McGovern
Minutes Clerk: Tina Griffin

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Forte called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

MINUTES

Ms. Leclair made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 14, 2020 meeting, as submitted.
Ms. McGovern seconded and the motion carried.

CORONA VIRUS UPDATES

Mr. Wilson gave an update on the COVID-19 virus and current number of cases in Town, as well as number of people that have recovered from the virus so far. Mr. Wilson informed everyone on the safety measures that they should be taking. The Town currently holds a COVID-19 Live Local Emergency Meeting Update at 10:00 am Monday through Friday on the Local Government ABMI Channel. This broadcast is also replayed at 7:00 pm each night.
Please check the Town website for news and updates as they become available.

DPH DISTRIBUTION

The DPH Distribution check in the amount of \$10,500 was acknowledged by the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

EARTH DAY CLEAN-UP EVENT – APRIL 25TH

This year will be the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. Originally, the Clean-Up event was scheduled for Saturday, April 25th. Due to the current pandemic and social distancing, this will not be an option. Instead, Board members are asking that residents participate in a Clean-Up event during the month of April. Residents are being asked to designate some time to pick up trash / litter on their own streets and sidewalks. T-Shirts were printed and if you call the office to let people know you will be participating and picking up trash on your street and share pictures with the office, they will provide you with a complimentary Earth Day T-Shirt. It is unfortunate that the Earth Day Clean-up event could not be conducted as was originally planned. However, if we can all just do our part and help, we could still make Earth Day month a success for Bellingham.

HEALTH AGENT UPDATES

NEW AND PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS

Mr. Wilson discussed new and previous complaints that have come into the Board of Health office since the last meeting, held on April 14, 2020.

Mr. Wilson also talked to the Board about the possibility of mandating all food handlers and grocery workers to wear masks. Most establishments have already been using these safety measures. However, there was a recent complaint about a Drive-thru employee not wearing gloves or mask when

passing food through the window. The Board agreed with Mr. Wilson and advised him to start getting the information out to businesses regarding the mandating of masks.

FOOD INSPECTIONS

Food Inspector, Robert Griffin III, was present for this meeting and informed the Board that he will be preparing a list and visiting local establishments in the coming weeks. Mr. Griffin also discussed the possibility of using electronic inspection report software, rather than the handling and distribution of paper forms, especially during this pandemic. Due to the pricing of the electronic software, Mr. Griffin is looking into a Grant to help offset the cost. Mr. Griffin will be speaking to a sales representative this week about the software and will then be in contact with Mr. Wilson about applying for a Grant.

DISCUSSION

ESSENTIAL BUSINESS POLICY

As of right now the State of Emergency is in effect until May 4th. The Governor is expected to make an announcement within the next couple days to update everyone on the State of Emergency and if the date will need to be extended further.

Many businesses have been inquiring on how to determine if they qualify as an Essential Business. Mr. Forte advised that any business looking to be deemed as "Essential" should go to the State Website and complete the online Essential Business Designation Request form. The link to this form can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/essential-service-designation-request>
If they State approves them as an Essential Business, a copy of the approval will need to be submitted to the Board of Health before the business can open.

BETTERMENT LOANS

346 THERESA ROAD

Ms. McGovern made a motion to approve the application for a Septic System Betterment Loan at 346 Theresa Road. Income requirements were reviewed and verified by the Board.
Ms. Leclair seconded and the motion carried.

60 PICKERING AVENUE

Board members will require additional income verification and proof of residency before approving the Betterment Loan Application for 60 Pickering Avenue. This item will be continued to the next Board of Health meeting, scheduled for April 28th.

121 CENTER STREET

Ms. McGovern made a motion to approve the application for a Septic System Betterment Loan at 121 Center Street. Income requirements were reviewed and verified by the Board.
Ms. Leclair seconded and the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. McGovern made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm. Her motion was seconded by Ms. Leclair and carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina M. Griffin
Tina M. Griffin

NEXT MEETING IS APRIL 28, 2020 AT 7:00 PM