

**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 6, 2021 at 7:00 pm**  
**Remote Meeting via Zoom Video**

**PRESENT**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. McGovern called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

**MINUTES**

Mr. Forte made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2021 meeting, as submitted.  
Ms. McGovern seconded and the motion carried.

**CORONA VIRUS UPDATES:**

Health Agent, Bruce Wilson, Jr. gave an update on the COVID-19 cases in Town. The number of active cases has been decreasing over these past few weeks and the Town is no longer considered "High-Risk" at this time. Mr. Wilson told Board members that the second round of vaccines will be administered to residents of Wrentham Manor and Depot Court on Monday and Tuesday of next week. Also, Mr. Wilson has been working with the clinic in Uxbridge to get more Town residents vaccinated at their clinic that is working from a list of people in surrounding Towns. As of April 19<sup>th</sup>, vaccines will be open to all groups.

For more information and updates on COVID-19, please check the State website at [Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov) and the Town website at [BellinghamMA.org](https://www.bellinghamma.org).

**NEW BUSINESS**

**REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD**

Ms. Leclair joined the meeting via Zoom for the Board Reorganization portion of the agenda:

**Chairperson** - Ms. Leclair made a motion to appoint Ms. McGovern as Chairperson of the Board of Health. Mr. Forte seconded and the motion carried.

**Vice-Chairperson** - Ms. Leclair made a motion to appoint Mr. Forte as Vice Chairperson of the Board of Health. Ms. McGovern seconded and the motion carried.

**Member-At-Large** - Ms. McGovern made a motion to appoint Ms. Leclair as Member-At-Large of the Board of Health. Mr. Forte seconded and the motion carried.

Ms. Leclair adjourned from the meeting when reorganization of the Board was completed.

## **EARTH DAY**

This year Earth Day is on Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Ms. McGovern told Board members that having the group Earth Day Clean-up event would not be possible, due to Covid. However, Ms. McGovern said that some t-shirts are still available for people that would like to participate in their own clean-up event and pick up trash around their neighborhoods. Just send a picture to the Office to show the area cleaned up and a t-shirt will be delivered to the volunteer(s). Also, if community service hours are needed by anyone, Ms. McGovern said the paperwork could be signed off by the Board members after the participants clean-up an area and submit proof to the Office.

## **TOBACCO AGENT UPDATES**

Tobacco Agent, Robert Griffin III, was present to update the Board on the State fine structure for Tobacco Violations. The State adjusted some of their fine values for specific Tobacco Violations. The new State fine structure is \$1,000 for a first offense, \$2,000 for a second offense and \$5,000 for a third offense. Currently the Town fine structure is \$100 for the first offense, \$200 for a second offense with a 7-day license suspension and \$300 for a third offense with a 30-day license suspension. Mr. Griffin asked the Board if they would like to keep the Town fine structure the same or if they would like to match the State fine structure for violations going forward. The Board agreed to stay with their current fine structure at this time, as the Town Regulations were recently amended and approved.

The State also amended the types of violations that require the issuance of fines to the following items:

- Sale to minors
- Sales of flavored tobacco products
- Sales of vaping liquids that exceed 3% nicotine content with the exception of “adult only” locations that could sell up to 5%. Bellingham does not currently have any “adult only” locations.

Due to the changes in the State fine structure, a recent violation issued to a retailer in Town for their non-renewal of a State license, has been reduced from \$33,600 to \$12,700. The non-renewal of a State license is now considered a local violation and would be fined at \$100 per day instead of \$1,000 per day, as the Town fine structure is less than the State fine structure. The retailer will be notified by mail that they have to pay the balance of the \$12,700 fine by June 30, 2021.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **BUDGET PRINTOUT**

A copy of the Department Budget was given to all Board members for review. The Board had questions regarding the Professional Services Account charges. Mr. Wilson told Board members he would discuss with the Ms. Renaud and the Chief Financial Officer, Ms. MacKinnon and get clarification on these expenses.

## **CANCER CONCERNS**

Information from the Department of Public Health regarding Cancer statistics was provided to Board members for review. The Board would like to keep this discussion on their list of goals to see if an intern might be something the Department can consider in the future and if grants might be available for the purpose of hiring an intern. Mr. Wilson will prepare a job description and post on the Town website, as well as Handshake.com to hire an intern for the purpose of epidemiology information and tracking.

## **HEALTH AGENT UPDATES**

### **NEW AND PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS**

The Board discussed new and previous complaints that have come into the Board of Health office since the last meeting, held on March 2, 2021.

**BETTERMENT BILLS**

Mr. Forte made a motion to approve the Betterment Bill in the amount of \$3,350.00 to Colonial Engineering and Mr. Santos for the septic design and as-builts at 2 Deerfield Lane. Ms. McGovern seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Forte made a motion to approve the Betterment Bill in the amount of \$6,167.98 to Colonial Engineering and Mr. Fryncko for the septic system engineering and design at 25 Main Avenue. Ms. McGovern seconded and the motion carried.

**BETTERMENT LOANS****AUTHORIZATION AFFIDAVIT / PENDING**

Mr. Wilson let Board members know that his is working on the Authorization Affidavit and will be sending to Town Counsel for review.

**118 YVONNE ROAD**

A Betterment Loan application for 118 Yvonne Road will be continued until the next Board of Health meeting, scheduled for April 20<sup>th</sup>, after tax documentation is submitted to the Office for verification.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Forte made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 pm. The motion was seconded by Ms. McGovern and carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Tina M. Griffin*  
Tina M. Griffin

**NEXT MEETING IS APRIL 20, 2021 AT 7:00 PM**