

BOARD OF HEALTH

August 11, 2020

Minutes

Zoom Video Meeting

PRESENT

Health Agent: Bruce Wilson, Jr.

Chairperson: Patricia Leclair

Vice Chairperson: Kelly McGovern

Member: Vincent Forte, Jr.

Tobacco Agent: Robert W. Griffin III

Minutes Clerk: Tina Griffin

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Leclair called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

MINUTES

Ms. McGovern made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 28, 2020 meeting, as submitted.

Mr. Forte seconded and the motion carried.

CORONA VIRUS UPDATES

Health Agent, Bruce Wilson, Jr. gave an update on the COVID-19 numbers in Town and the slight increase in probable cases that have been coming in. Mr. Wilson told the Board that he has been visiting stores regarding mask complaints and making sure that stores know masks are still a requirement. Mr. Wilson also mentioned the "Travel Order" that the Governor put into effect on Saturday, August 1st. For more information and updates on the Travel Order, please check the State website at Mass.gov.

Recently, the Governor has also altered Phase 3 / Step 1 of the Business Re-Opening Plan. Limiting numbers of event attendee occupancy to:

- 8 persons per 1,000 square feet of accessible, indoor floor space, and no more than 25 persons total
- Facilities for which no permitted occupancy limitation is on record (outdoor) may allow 8 persons per 1,000 square feet of accessible space, and no more than 50 persons

Mr. Wilson said that while businesses continue to re-open and transition back into normal hours and services, the Board will continue to monitor the cases to make sure the numbers don't start increasing.

OLD BUSINESS

CESSPOOLS

This discussion will be continued to a future Board of Health meeting after Mr. Wilson is able to get more information from other local Towns on their procedures.

Chief Financial Officer, Mary MacKinnon was present for tonight's meeting to give an update on the Betterment Funds balance and availability. Worksheets with the requested information were given to all Board members before the meeting for review.

Ms. McGovern made a motion to request the balance of money from the current CWT (Clean Water Trust) Fund Drawdown. Mr. Forte seconded and the motion carried.

Ms. McGovern made a motion to request a release of \$300,000 from the CWT for the next round of Betterment Loan applications. Mr. Forte seconded and the motion carried.

TOBACCO AGENT UPDATES

SAV-MORE CASH

Mr. Jabour, attorney for Sav-More Cash gas station was present for tonight's meeting through Zoom video. Mr. Jabour told the Board that he believes it is a miscommunication between the Department of Revenue and the status of his client's Tobacco License.

Tobacco Agent, Robert Griffin III, had issued a fine to Sav-More Cash gas station for selling tobacco products without a State license. In addition, the business did not have a Town Permit because there was not a valid CT-3T Cigarette Excise License Form on file for this business. Mr. Jabour told the Board that the Department of Revenue has been accepting his client's Tobacco Excise payments and they had not notified his client of any issues relating to why he would not be able to obtain a State License.

Mr. Griffin told the Board that the last valid State license on file was from 2016, which expired in 2018. Also, Mr. Griffin was told by the Department of Revenue that they did not issue a new State License to Save-More Cash in 2018 because there were other issues outstanding before the license could be processed. Mr. Jabour disagrees with this information from the Department of Revenue and would like more time to get information from his client and the Department of Revenue on this situation.

The Board agreed to continue this discussion until the August 25, 2020 Board of Health meeting.

VETS PACKAGE STORE

Brett Remillard, Co-owner of Vet's Package Store was present for tonight's meeting through Zoom video. Mr. Griffin told the Board that this location was also operating without a State License and Town Permit for Tobacco sales. Mr. Griffin is working with the Department of Revenue to gather more information on the status of the Business License and why it was not renewed by the State.

Mr. Remillard told the Board he has been paying his Tobacco excise taxes and knew that he had a balance with the Department of Revenue but was not aware that his license was not being renewed due to this. Mr. Remillard assumed that the License was just taking longer to process due to COVID and lack of staff in the Department of Revenue office. Mr. Griffin has received conflicting information from the State on the status of the business license, regarding if it was not renewed or if it was revoked.

Mr. Griffin told the Board he would like the opportunity to talk with Town Counsel and be able to get copies of the notices that have been sent to Vet's Package Store by the State. Board members agreed to allow more time for Mr. Griffin and Mr. Remillard to gather the requested information. This discussion will be continued at the August 25, 2020 Board of Health meeting.

AGENT CONTRACT

The Tobacco Agent contract between Robert Griffin III and the Town of Bellingham is being reviewed by Town Counsel. Ms. Renaud will let Board members know when it is ready for them to come in and sign.

TOBACCO INSPECTIONS

Board members discussed the number of routine and education inspections the Tobacco Agent has at each establishment.

Mr. Forte made a motion to increase the number of operational stings from two to three times per year and the number of education inspections from two to three times per year. Ms. McGovern seconded and the motion carried.

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 July 28, 2020.

FOOD INSPECTIONS

Food Inspector, Robert Griffin III, told the Board that all establishments that were previously issued fines have done an amazing job on rectifying the issues that were in violation. Mr. Griffin performed all the re-inspections over the past week and there were no issues to report at any of these establishments. In addition, most of the establishments had already paid their fines to the Town. Mr. Griffin will be starting the next round of routine inspections within a couple of weeks.

BILLS

Ms. McGovern made a motion to pay \$175.04 to Home Depot for Evidence Storage Bins. Mr. Forte seconded and the motion carried.

Ms. McGovern made a motion to pay \$39.25 to W.B. Mason for Office Supplies. Mr. Forte seconded and the motion carried.

BETTERMENT LOANS

25 MAIN AVENUE

Ms. McGovern made a motion to approve the Betterment Loan Agreement between the Town of Bellingham and Mr. Fryncko for the septic system located at 25 Main Avenue. Mr. Forte seconded and the motion carried. The agreement was signed by the Board.

PLANS

31 ELM STREET

A septic design plan for 31 Elm Street was reviewed by the Board.

Ms. McGovern made a motion to approve the plan with the following local upgrade requests that were reviewed and verified by the Health Agent, Mr. Wilson:

- Allow a reduction from the bottom of the S.A.S. (Soil Absorption System) to the established groundwater from 5' to 4' where the perc rate was less than 2 mpi – per 310 CMR 15.405(1)(h)
- Request a setback to allow 15' from septic system to cellar wall where 20' is required, due to the site limitations per 310 CMR 15.405(1)(b)

Mr. Forte seconded and the motion carried.

142 LAKE STREET

A septic design plan for 142 Lake Street was reviewed by the Board.

Ms. McGovern made a motion to approve the plan with the following local upgrade requests that were reviewed and verified by the Health Agent, Mr. Wilson:

- Allow the system to be constructed 13' from the foundation where 20' is required and also remove the garbage disposal and relocate or remove the shed - per 310 CMR 15.405(1)(b)

Mr. Forte seconded and the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Forte made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 pm. Ms. McGovern seconded and the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina M. Griffin
Tina M. Griffin

The next Board of Health Meeting will be held on August 25, 2020