

BOARD OF HEALTH
Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2020 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. Leclair called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

MINUTES

Ms. McGovern made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 17, 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 cases in Town. The number of active cases has been on a slow incline since the beginning of November. Bellingham has now been considered “high risk” due to the number of new positive cases that have been confirmed. Mr. Wilson told Board members that if the Town stays in “high risk” status, they will have to consider further scaling back on the number of customers allowed inside establishments. As of this afternoon, the Governor’s new Order goes into effect to limit retail establishments to 50% customer capacity at all times and to again reinforce the mandatory mask requirements. Mr. Wilson told Board members that he will keep monitoring the cases to see if the numbers spike due to the recent Thanksgiving Holiday with people having or attending gatherings outside of their homes, as the Governor has urged against.

For more information and updates on COVID-19, please check the State website at Mass.gov and the Town website at BellinghamMA.org. In addition, Bellingham Town officials will be providing a COVID-19 Live update on Comcast Access Channel 8 and Verizon channel 47 each Monday at 10:00 am

FINES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE OF ORDERS

Board members discussed the non-compliance of orders and fine structure that has been established by the State. Ms. Leclair told the Board that the Town will start issuing fines to any person or place that is in non-compliance in the future, to help deter against large gatherings and mask violations. The Town will match the State fine structure that was put in place by the Governor’s COVID-19 Enforcement Orders that can be found on www.mass.gov.

Mr. Forte told Board members that any calls or complaints that come into the office regarding mask complaints or gatherings must be followed up with immediately by either the Health Agent, any available Board Member and/or the Police Department so that fines can be enforced.

OLD BUSINESS

BODY ART PERMITS

Board members have been discussing the option to add more permits to their current Tattoo and Body Art Regulations, as multiple people have been inquiring with the office about permit availability.

Mr. Forte made a motion to add three more Tattoo Establishments permits to the current Regulations, making one available for Ms. Robinson that has contacted the Board and two others available for people that may inquire in the future. Ms. McGovern seconded and the motion carried.

CBD PRODUCTS

Tobacco Agent, Robert Griffin III was present for tonight's meeting to discuss recent updates with CBD Product sales. Mr. Griffin told Board members he has been working with the CCC (Cannabis Control Commission) regarding the sale of CBD Products that are edibles and should require a Food Permit. Mr. Griffin said that with everything going on with the new COVID-19 spikes and the Holidays being around the corner, the CCC is still working on these guidelines and they will have further details in January regarding sales of these types of CBD products. As soon as Mr. Griffin has more information on the CBD Products he will update the Board accordingly.

TOBACCO

Mr. Griffin told the Board that he recently did Tobacco stings and reported that two retail establishments sold Tobacco products to a minor. Both of these establishments also had recent prior sale violations and are on their second strike. Mr. Griffin has talked to both establishments about purchasing card readers so that ID's would have to be scanned before a tobacco sale can be made in the future and to help the store hopefully not have any future violations of this kind.

Mr. Forte made a motion to have Richdale Foods and the Rusty Lantern either pay the fines and serve the 7-day Tobacco sale suspension for their second offense OR give them the option to waive the fine, in-lou of purchasing the card reader and also serve the 7-day Tobacco sale suspension. If the establishments take the option to purchase the card readers instead of paying the fine, the equipment must be purchased before the 7-day Tobacco sale suspension is complete. Ms. McGovern seconded and the motion carried.

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 November 17, 2020.

BILLS

Ms. McGovern made a motion to pay \$24.98 to W.B. Mason for Office Supplies. Her motion was seconded by Mr. Forte and carried.

BETTERMENT BILLS

Ms. McGovern made a motion to pay \$8,000.00 to Dave Brown and Mr. Boucher for the septic system repair at 39 Porter Road. Mr. Forte seconded and the motion carried.

Ms. McGovern made a motion to pay \$3,750.00 to Colonial Engineering and Mr. Boucher for the septic system at 39 Porter Road. Mr. Forte seconded and the motion carried.

BETTERMENT LOANS

2 DEERFIELD LANE

Ms. McGovern made a motion to approve the signing of a Betterment Loan Agreement between the Town of Bellingham and Mr. Dos Santos for the septic system at 2 Deerfield Lane. Mr. Forte seconded and the motion carried.

31 HARTFORD AVENUE

Ms. McGovern made a motion to approve the signing of a Betterment Loan Agreement between the Town of Bellingham and Mr. Accorsi for the septic system at 31 Hartford Avenue. Mr. Forte seconded and the motion carried.

7 MOHAWK STREET

Mr. Forte made a motion to approve the application for a septic system Betterment Loan at 7 Mohawk Street. Income documentation was verified and approved by the Board. Ms. Leclair seconded and the motion carried.

PLANS

9 JANET AVENUE

A septic design plan for 9 Janet Avenue 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 for the leaching bed to the constructed 18' from the foundation where 20' is required 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 8:18 pm. The motion was seconded by Ms. Leclair and carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina M. Griffin

Tina M. Griffin

NEXT MEETING IS JANUARY 12, 2021 AT 7:00 PM