

BOARD OF HEALTH
July 14, 2020
Minutes
Bellingham Municipal Center
Arcand Meeting Room

PRESENT

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

ABSENT:

Chairperson: Patricia Leclair

CALL TO ORDER

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

MINUTES

Mr. Forte made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 23, 2020 meeting, as submitted.
Ms. McGovern seconded and the motion carried.

CORONA VIRUS UPDATES

Health Agent, Bruce Wilson, Jr. gave an update on the Phase 3 / Step 1 Reopening Plan for the State and the types of businesses that have been allowed to reopen. Mr. Wilson noted that even though there has been a small increase in the amount of positive cases, the State has stayed at just 1.7% of positive cases. Mr. Wilson said it is very important for people to not let their guard down. Masks are still a requirement and social distancing is the key to slowing the spread.

Ms. McGovern gave an update on the number of Covid-19 cases in Town.

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 and make sure the numbers don't start increasing more.

OLD BUSINESS

TOBACCO AGENT POSITION UPDATE

Sarah McColgan from the MHOA (Massachusetts Health Officers Association) updated the office that Mr. Griffin has completed his training on conducting retail tobacco inspections and compliance checks. Tobacco Agent, Marilyn Edge has notified the Board that she is retiring. Mr. Griffin expressed interest in the position and has already begun the State trainings. Mr. Griffin told the Board he will be taking an additional training at the end of the month for the POST System and entering Bellingham's data into the State database.

Mr. Forte made a motion to hire Robert Griffin III as Tobacco Agent for the Town of Bellingham.

Ms. McGovern seconded and the motion carried.

TOBACCO REGULATIONS DISCUSSION / BELLINGHAM SMOKE SHOP

Jamil Sheikh, owner of Bellingham Smoke Shop was present for tonight's meeting to discuss the new Tobacco Regulations that went into effect as of June 1, 2020. Mr. Forte read the new Tobacco Regulation details and told Mr. Sheikh that the Board was not going to revise these regulations. Therefore, electronic vaping devices are no longer allowed to be sold in Bellingham. Ms. McGovern told Mr. Sheikh that Bellingham is not the only Town to ban these devices, as 3 other Town's in

Massachusetts have already banned them. More Town's will be following as soon as the Covid pandemic slows down, allowing Boards and Committees to hold meetings and Public Hearings. The new Regulations that became effective June 1, 2020 will remain in effect and the Bellingham Smoke Shop will no longer be allowed to sell the electronic devices that they currently have in the store.

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 June 23, 2020.

FOOD INSPECTIONS

Food Inspector, Robert Griffin III, told the Board that he has been working through the list of establishments that are open for business to make sure their inspections are completed by their due date. Mr. Griffin has been using the new electronic software and has been able to instantly report any issues or violations to all Board members. Some establishments recently inspected have had issues that required follow-up visits from the Food Inspector, as well as the Health Agent. Mr. Griffin told the Board that most establishments are eager to fix the issues quickly in order to avoid a possible fine. Mr. Griffin also reported that a few establishments have gone above and beyond what his recommendations were for food safety. There are about a dozen establishments that will require re-inspections to make sure they are addressing any issues. Mr. Griffin told the Board he will be following up with these re-inspections this week, as a number of citations were recently issued.

Board members discussed increasing the frequency of inspections for certain establishment types.

Mr. Forte made a motion to increase all "Level 2" establishments from testing twice a year to once per quarter (four times per year); and increase "Level 3" establishments from 3 times a year to once per quarter. Ms. McGovern seconded and the motion carried.

BILLS

Mr. Forte made a motion to pay \$50.96 to Home Depot for thermometers. Ms. McGovern seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Forte made a motion to pay \$57.40 to Gatehouse Media for Public Hearing notices. Ms. McGovern seconded and the motion carried.

BETTERMENT BILLS

Mr. Forte made a motion to pay a Betterment Loan Bill in the amount of \$275 to ADC Septic and Mr. Audet for the septic system pumping at 84 Lisa Ann Drive. Ms. McGovern seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Forte made a motion to pay a Betterment Loan Bill in the amount of \$2,600 to Peter Lavoie and Mr. Shah for the septic system design, perc test and as-builts at 121 Center Street. Ms. McGovern seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Forte made a motion to pay a Betterment Loan Bill in the amount of \$150 to the Town of Bellingham and Mr. Shah for the Betterment Application Fee at 121 Center Street. Ms. McGovern seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Forte made a motion to pay a Betterment Loan in the amount of \$8,820 to Brown Construction and Mr. Audet for the septic system repair at 84 Lisa Ann Drive. Ms. McGovern seconded and the motion carried.

BETTERMENT LOANS

39 PORTER ROAD

Mr. Forte made a motion to approve and sign the Betterment Loan Agreement between the Town of Bellingham and Mr. Boucher for the septic system at 39 Porter Road. Ms. McGovern seconded and the motion carried.

346 THERESA ROAD

Mr. Forte made a motion to approve the Betterment Loan Agreement between the Town of Bellingham and Mr. Rivet for the septic system located at 346 Theresa Road. Ms. McGovern seconded and the motion carried. The agreement was signed and notarized for recording at the Registry of Deeds.

PLANS

60 PICKERING AVENUE

A septic design plan for 60 Pickering Avenue was reviewed by the Board.

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

- Setback to a wetland area per 310 CMR 15.405(1)(e)
- Request the depth of cover over trench to be 3.65' where 3' is required per 310 CMR 15.405(1)(b)
- Allow maximum depth of cover to exceed 36" and allow up to 72"

Ms. McGovern seconded and the motion carried.

75 FARM STREET

A septic design plan for 75 Farm Street reviewed by the Board.

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

- Waiver to allow the septic field to be 6' from a shed, where 10' is required per 310 CMR 15.405(1)(b)

Ms. McGovern seconded and the motion carried.

20 BERTINE STREET

A septic design plan for 20 Bertine Street was reviewed by the Board.

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

- Request a waiver to allow a reduction in the setback from the property line to allow 8' where 10' is required per 310 CMR 15.405(1)(a)
- Request a waiver to allow the reduction of setback from the slab foundation to 7.5' where 10' is required per 310 CMR 15.405(1)(b)

Mr. Wilson recommends the approval of this plan due to the tight constraints of this lot.

Ms. McGovern seconded and the motion carried.

221 PAINE STREET

A septic design plan for 221 Paine Street was reviewed by the Board.

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

- Request a waiver to reduce the setback of the SAS (Soil Absorption System) to the property line to allow 7.5' where 10' is required per 310 CMR 15.405(1)(a)
- Request a waiver to reduce the setback of the SAS to a cellar wall to 11' where 20' is required per 310 CMR 15.405(1)(b)
- Request a reduction in the separation to groundwater to allow 2' to groundwater with Presby System, which is allowed based on the State's approval of the technology - per 310 CMR 15.405(1)(h)

Ms. McGovern seconded and the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Forte made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 pm. Ms. McGovern seconded and the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina M. Griffin
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The next Board of Health Meeting will be held on July 28, 2020