

BOARD OF HEALTH
Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2021 at 7:00 pm
Remote Meeting via Zoom Video

PRESENT

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

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 May 4, 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 steadily decreasing and is currently only at 10 cases. Approximately 52% of the Town's residents have now been vaccinated.

A Pfizer vaccination clinic will be held at the High School on Wednesday, May 19th for students ages 12 and up. Mr. Wilson and Ms. Leclair will be volunteering at this vaccine clinic. The Town is also preparing to host a Drive-Up clinic which is tentatively scheduled for June 19th.

Mr. Wilson has also been working with the clinic in Uxbridge to get more Bellingham residents vaccinated at that location.

Board members discussed the mask mandate for the Town and the State, as the Governor has made a statement that the mask mandate will be lifted as of May 29th. Mr. Wilson told Board members that the office is inundated with mask complaint calls and now the Schools are not requiring students to wear masks while playing sports, which may create more mask complaints in the office.

Mr. Forte made a motion to rescind the Town's current mask mandate and no longer require masks to be worn in Town unless a location specifies differently with mask requirements listed on their doors before entering the establishment. Ms. Leclair seconded and the motion carried.

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).

OLD BUSINESS

MONTHLY BUDGETS

Ms. MacKinnon was present for tonight's meeting to review and discuss the budgets within the Department. Copies of all Department budget spreadsheets were provided to Board members for review. Ms. MacKinnon explained the funds that are still available for use until the end of FY21, which ends on June 30th. Board members acknowledged and reviewed the information provided. Ms. Renaud and Mr. Wilson will be attending a training at the end of the week, in order to be able to obtain this budget information as needed or as requested by Board members.

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 May 4, 2021.

DISCUSSION

JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Ms. McGovern had requested this discussion be added to the agenda to see if there is anything that the Board can help assist Mr. Wilson, Ms. Renaud or Ms. Martone with. Ms. Martone did provide Board members with a brief summary on her job description.

Ms. McGovern has been in contact with the retiree that has offered to volunteer and assist the Public Health Nurse with her duties. Ms. Martone said that when the Senior Center re-opens, there may be more areas that Ms. Valinski can help with, as the blood pressure clinics will open back up and more services will be made available to the public. Ms. Valinski will also be able to help Ms. Martone with the MAVEN system, as she is proficient with that program from her previous job that she recently retired from. More details will be available as the Senior Center opens and the number of COVID-19 cases continue to decline so that Ms. Martone and Ms. Valinski can start focusing on other job duties.

BILLS

Mr. Forte made a motion to pay \$165.00 to the Postmaster for the purchase of 3 rolls of stamps. Ms. Leclair seconded and the motion carried.

BETTERMENT BILLS

Mr. Forte made a motion to pay \$1,500.00 to David Brown and Mr. Mendez for landscaping work done due to the septic system replacement at 9 Janet Street. Ms. Leclair seconded and the motion carried.

BETTERMENT LOANS

51 LAKEVIEW AVENUE

Mr. Forte made a motion to approve the Septic Betterment Loan Application for Mr. & Mrs. Finlay of 51 Lakeview Avenue. Income was reviewed and the preliminary application was approved by the Board. Ms. Leclair seconded and the motion carried.

PLAN REVIEWS

56 VALLEY VIEW ROAD

A septic design plan for 56 Valley View Road 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:

- Allow the separation of groundwater to be 2' where 4' is required per 310 CMR 15.405(1)(h)

Ms. Leclair seconded and the motion carried.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Tobacco Agent, Mr. Griffin was present at tonight's meeting to let the Board know he has been working with Town Counsel and Attorney Riley for the Tobacco Regulations and Bans. Mr. Griffin said he should have more information at the next meeting, scheduled for June 1st, after continuing to work with Town Counsel in the coming weeks.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Forte made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm. The motion was seconded by Ms. Leclair and carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina M. Griffin

Tina M. Griffin

NEXT MEETING IS JUNE 1, 2021 AT 7:00 PM