

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Meeting Minutes
November 17, 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 7:02 pm.

MINUTES

Ms. McGovern made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 3, 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 increasing over the past few weeks. Mr. Wilson told Board members that he has been addressing multiple mask complaints and visiting establishments to enforce mask wearing requirements. The Governor's new Orders went into effect on Friday, November 6th and included size limit for gatherings and the "stay home" advisement that takes place daily between 10:00 pm and 5:00 am. Today, the Governor also discussed the possibility of rolling back on non-essential businesses if the number of positive cases continues to increase. Governor Baker also asked residents to only gather with people from their own household for Thanksgiving and not have family gatherings this year.

Mr. Marano, Superintendent of Schools was also present for tonight's meeting and let everyone know that when there is a gathering of students at a residence, it puts not only those individuals at risk, but also the entire school and faculty.

Mr. Marano said it is unfortunate that the High School recently had to go back to remote learning for a couple weeks due to a house party that recently took place with many students in attendance.

Mr. Marano told Board members that they work very hard to make the schools and students stay safe with hand washing stations as soon as they enter building, hand sanitizing units in every room, half student capacity, social distancing, keeping windows open for air circulation, running air purifiers in rooms that don't have windows and the maintenance department does a thorough cleaning every night. All these precautionary measures have been put into place to ensure the health and safety of the students and faculty. However, when something such as a home gathering with students takes place, the entire school and faculty are at risk. Mr. Marano asks that people be vigilant about social distancing and adhere to the Governor's Orders to help keep everyone safe.

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).

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.

MR. FORTE – CONRONA VIRUS DISCUSSIONS

VIOLATIONS – GATHERING OF 26 PEOPLE

Mr. Forte discussed the potential for issuing fines to people that do not obey the Governor's Order on inside and outside gathering limits. Ms. Leclair agreed and said this is something the Board may have to enforce if these situations continue, especially if students continue to attend large gatherings and risk the health and safety of other students and faculty members.

DISCUSS ROLLBACK

Mr. Forte discussed the possibility of businesses rolling back to stricter guidelines for indoor dining and smaller numbers allowed for customers at retail establishments, etc. Ms. Leclair said it is not the Boards desire to hurt any businesses financially, as they are already struggling to keep their doors open with the customer limits. Ms. Leclair hopes that people can take the Governor's Orders under advisement and that the number of positive cases will start to decrease so that the Town does not have to further restrict the businesses hours and customer capacity.

NEW BUSINESS

139 GROVE STREET – DREAM CATCHER FARM

Mr. Wilson told Board members that there was a recent incident at Dream Catcher Farm regarding some conservation issues. Mr. Wilson did a site visit with the Conservation Commission on Friday, November 13th. At that time, it was noticed that manure had been placed along the edge of the embankment by the pond. This improperly placed material needs to be moved to an area outside of the 100' buffer zone. The owner is aware that this must be completed within 30 days (no later than Sunday, December 13th).

In addition, it was discovered that manure was overflowing or escaping an on-site containment area. All manure is to be removed from the containment area and a filter fabric or other suitable liner must be installed to prevent reoccurrence. Mr. Wilson told Board members that he would be following up with this location to make sure the work is being done properly.

OLD BUSINESS

ANNUAL REVIEW – HEALTH AGENT

Board members will make sure that their employee review forms for Health Agent, Bruce Wilson, Jr. will be brought to the office by the end of this week.

BODY ART LICENSE – ARIEL ROBINSON

Ms. Robinson had previously addressed the Board to ask if they would consider amending the Body Art Regulations, to allow one additional business permit in Town. Mr. Wilson told Board members that he has contacted all current permit holders to see if they will be renewing their permits. All businesses said they do intend to renew their permits. If one of these establishments do not renew their permit, it would be offered to Ms. Robinson and the Board would not have to consider amending the current Regulations.

Mr. Forte made a motion to continue this discussion to the next Board of Health meeting scheduled for December 1, 2020 with the possibility of revising the current Regulations to allow 4 Tattoo permits and 2 micro-blading permits, instead of grouping them all under one category. Ms. McGovern seconded and the motion carried.

CBD PRODUCTS

Mr. Griffin told the Board that he is still trying to get all the information from the CCC (Cannabis Control Commission), regarding some of the questions he had about Hemp and CBD product sales. Mr. Griffin will notify the Board when he has all the requested information to continue this discussion at a later date.

TOBACCO AGENT UPDATES

Mr. Griffin told Board members that he recently visited Tobacco retailers to make sure their State licenses had been renewed and to do more compliance checks. All State licenses must normally be renewed by September 30th. However, due to Covid-19, a one-month extension was put into place this year and State licenses had expired on October 31st. Mr. Griffin said that the locations he visited had all renewed their State licenses as of November 1st. However, during compliance checks, he did have a couple retailers sell Tobacco products to a minor. Mr. Griffin talked to the Board about having these establishments come into a meeting to discuss their violations and fines. The Board agreed that the fines must be issued to these establishments for their violations and they can contact the office to request a meeting, if they choose. This discussion will be continued to the next Board of Health meeting, scheduled for December 1, 2020.

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 November 3, 2020.

BETTERMENT LOANS

988 SOUTH MAIN STREET

Ms. McGovern made a motion to approve the signing of a Betterment Loan Agreement between the Town of Bellingham and Mr. O'Brien for the septic system at 988 South Main Street. Mr. Forte seconded and the motion carried.

2 DEERFIELD LANE

Ms. McGovern made a motion to approve the Septic Betterment Loan Application for Mr. Dos Santos of 2 Deerfield Lane. Income was reviewed and the application was approved. Mr. Forte seconded and the motion carried.

31 HARTFORD AVENUE

Ms. McGovern made a motion to approve the Septic Betterment Loan Application for Mr. Accorsi of 31 Hartford Avenue. Income was reviewed and the application was approved. Mr. Forte seconded and the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Forte made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 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 Tuesday, December 1, 2020