



Town of Boylston Board of Health boh@boylston-ma.gov

221 Main Street, Boylston MA 01505 ** Telephone (508) 869-6828 ** Fax (508) 869-6210

MEETING MINUTES

June 29, 2020

Members Present via Remote: Sarah Scheinfein, Robert Thibeault

Members Absent: John Wentzell

Others Present: Dennis Costello

Recorder: Melanie Rich

Due to technical difficulties with Zoom, the board held a meeting by conference call which was called to order at 10:18 a.m. Roll call was taken for members attending on the call: Sarah Scheinfein and Robert Thibeault. Dennis Costello and Melanie Rich participated from the office.

The Chair announced that pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L.c.30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, the Boylston Board of Health meeting will be conducted via remote participation.

RESIDENT BUSINESS

Compass Pointe – They changed over the plastic pipe to galvanized pipe in the blower unit to the housing unit. They have not yet addressed the higher vent pipe on the Presby system; they are supposed to be working on it. Dennis continues to wait for information.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Rob Thibeault made a motion to approve Meeting Minutes dated April 27, 2020 and May 18, 2020; Sarah Scheinfein seconded; roll call vote: Scheinfein-yes; Thibeault-yes; motion approved.

July 27th was confirmed as the next meeting date; it could possibly be held outside.

AGENT'S REPORT

COVID-19 Virus Update – An active case was received this morning bringing the number to 23. Dennis is working with the new contact tracing group. They were hired by the state; there has been a great deal of confusion with Boards of Health and nurses. They are taking cases that were already resolved, then back-tracking for contract tracing. The nursing bills are beginning to add up. We will use the remaining money in the grant account and then apply for another grant within the grant to see if we can get more of the bills paid. If not, they will be submitted to the Town Administrator who can then submit them to the Cares Act funding. The number of cases for the state, and our town, is going down.

Restaurants were allowed to open outdoors and now allowed to open indoors at 50% capacity with the Governor's mandate. Dennis was not to go in and do any preliminary inspections or tell them what to do; they had to do a self-certification per the Governor's advice.

Sarah received an email from Jamie Underwood about the reopening of town hall. Dennis was displeased with the town itself. The BOS does not seem to have a plan, good or bad, for reopening and/or meeting the requirements for office space by July 1st. The Selectmen deemed everyone in town hall essential so they would not have to comply until the July 1st requirement. Rob said his corporation is considered essential and he was not excluded from the 25% Governor's Orders on all staffing levels. He said the staffing level of the town offices could only be up to 50% with a 6-foot distancing range; there would also have to be a traffic pattern (one entrance in, one entrance out); the board agreed. Rob is a COVID Coach and said there is a lot of work involved. Dennis has received very little from the Town Administration Office; they should be spearheading this. In Jamie Underwood's email it said it is the responsibility of the Board of Health to open the town. Dennis said it is the responsibility of the person who runs the building to bring it into compliance with the Governor's Orders. If they want to touch base with the Board of Health, that's fine. Dennis gave them some suggestions last month about putting plexiglass in the doors, but never heard more on it.

They also may possibly want to rent out space at Town Hall. Dennis said we're not even open for business yet and doesn't know when it might be considered. It was heard that Parks and Rec was telling people that the Board of Health is controlling the opening and closing of the restaurants, athletic fields, and any town buildings. Again, it is not; it is up to the BOS along with the building and facility operator to provide a plan of opening their building (in concert with the Board of Health). The state standards are a self-certification, not a Board of Health certification. You take it upon yourself that you can meet what has been mandated, sign that you have met it, and then can open. Dennis is hoping by the end of the week that there is a plan to open this building as a compliant COVID-19 building and have met all the requirements (which he believes they have not), know when we might be open to the general public, and what that will look like. A log for contact tracing is also required but not in place yet. Some towns are planning very well; Boylston is not.

Dennis said there is talk about opening the Town House which is allowed, but do we want to. A policy should be in place from the BOS or Town Administrator. Sarah will respond to Jamie Underwood and let him know that the BOS as the CEO of the buildings in the town, needs to come up with a plan and the BOH will be happy to assist them. Dennis and Melanie continue to meet the needs of the public with the combination of working in office and remotely to continue 24/7 coverage of the office.

Dennis said on indoor meetings they are allowed with social distancing but it is the public health's viewpoint that just because you can go inside for a meeting, you should still be doing zoom meetings or outdoor meetings; the general state of the public health is everything is better outside. Seeing everything that has been going on, even though we are small, we need to be vigilant. Dennis thinks we should be meeting more than the minimum requirements by July 1st; every building needs a plan, and a policy should be available to everyone. Rob

June 29, 2020 BOH Meeting Minutes

commented that they working to put a plan in place for Youth Soccer for the fall; the Little League is working on a plan as well; federations are requiring a plan be in place for programs.

Sarah Scheinfein made motion to appoint the Public Health Agent/Director for three years; Rob Thibeault seconded; roll call vote: Scheinfein-yes; Thibeault-yes; motion approved.

Rooster Complaint (Lombardi) – Tabled to the July meeting per the request of the resident.

PLAN REVIEW

34 Glazier Street (Viera) – Sarah Scheinfein made a motion to approve the plan for 34 Glazier Street; Rob Thibeault seconded; roll call vote: Scheinfein-yes; Thibeault-yes; motion approved.

31 Duffy Road (Herrick) – Sarah Scheinfein made a motion to approve the plan for 31 Duffy Road; Rob Thibeault seconded; roll call vote: Scheinfein-yes; Thibeault-yes; motion approved.

1240 Main Street Revision (Van Dessel) – Sarah Scheinfein made a motion to approve the plan for 1240 Main Street; Rob Thibeault seconded; roll call vote: Scheinfein-yes; Thibeault-yes; motion approved.

Rob Thibeault made a motion to adjourn; Sarah Scheinfein seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.