



**Town of Boylston** Board of Health [boh@boylston-ma.gov](mailto:boh@boylston-ma.gov)  
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## **MEETING MINUTES**

March 22, 2021

**Members Present via Remote:** Sarah Scheinfein, Robert Thibeault

**Members Absent:** John Wentzell

**Others Present:** Dennis Costello

**Recorder:** Melanie Rich

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

An announcement was made 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.

Roll call was taken for members and staff attending remotely: Sarah Scheinfein, Robert Thibeault, Dennis Costello, and Melanie Rich.

### **RESIDENT BUSINESS**

Compass Pointe – Dennis has been extremely busy with COVID-19 related issues. Mr. Anttila asked if there was anything that says a project can't go on forever. Dennis believes that under the Subdivision Control Law, it should be completed within five years and if not, they would have to reapply to the Planning Board. Mr. Anttila will check with the Planning Board.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

Review and Approve Meeting Minutes dated January 25, 2021 and February 22, 2021 – Rob Thibeault made a motion to approve the January 25, 2021 and February 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes; Sarah Scheinfein seconded; roll call vote: all voted in favor; motion approved.

Regarding the resident who wants to be buried on their property, Dennis needs to get the parameters the board to send to their attorney. Unfortunately, he has not had the time to dedicate to this since he has been consumed with COVID-19.

April 26, 2021 was confirmed as the next meeting date.

## **AGENT'S REPORT**

COVID-19 Virus Update (Report on the Six-Town Application for a COVID Vaccination Clinic) – Our numbers are down; they have leveled off to single digits. Boylston, together with five other towns (Ashland, Hopkinton, Northborough, Southborough, and Westborough) have been approved to hold a COVID vaccination clinic; however, it is not known how much vaccine there will be to start with. Whatever is received, 25% of the amount of the vaccine can be used at the discretion of those involved in the clinic; it was submitted that they can vaccinate 750/day. The clinic will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Westborough. By next Tuesday Dennis should know how much vaccine we will receive; the following week it can be ordered and received a week later. They are looking at the second week of April for the date. Dennis said that the Fire Departments have been the ones pushing for and running the clinics. Most of the vaccinators and logistics will be from the Fire Department. The town will be responsible for greeters and front desk personnel. Dennis will be required to be there for two 12-hour shifts. While it is good to be holding a clinic, it is much later than the board would have liked. Hopefully we can get our residents there since it is open to everybody.

Board of Health Budget/Nurse – Originally the Health Agent increase was \$12K; Dennis said we need a nurse. He said to keep his salary as is and put that money into funding a nurse (for a total of \$15K). If approved, a job description will need to be created and hopefully hire someone by July 1<sup>st</sup>. The position could be modeled after the nurse in Southborough who works with the seniors, preparedness, wellness programs, and more.

Information on Shared Services – The state has put out an RFP for shared services between towns. Southborough, Northborough, and Boylston are all looking for some nursing. Westborough was added to the group recently; they had a first formal meeting last week. Dennis suggested possibly getting a nurse and a half on a shared basis. He would like a nurse dedicated to Boylston and then have the person as a shared nurse. There is a \$300,000 grant for three-years; there is a hard stop after three years so it should be prepared for. They are also looking for a Health Agent; the specifics have not been set; they are only gathering information. It is moving quickly; the award is to be May 1<sup>st</sup>. The board needs more public health. He suggested meeting to get the board's approval and will send out information as he receives it. Dennis would like to see pooled money for services. The board agreed to meet again on April 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Telephone Budget – The Town Accountant will no longer pay the late fee for the telephone even though it has been paid for many years. Dennis now has the billing and phone is in his possession. He needs the board's approval for the phone service. Sarah Scheinfein made a motion that Dennis Costello will bill the Board of Health in the amount of or about \$63.00 per month for the telephone with the ability to give or take; Rob Thibeault seconded; all in favor; motion approved.

Health Agent's Contract – Dennis talked to Town Counsel and would like the board, which has the authority, to enter into a contract with him to structure his position more, i.e., after working his required hours, any hours after that will be paid for accordingly. It is allowed by

state statute; it does not have to go to town meeting or the Board of Selectmen; it is subject to review by Town Counsel. If the board agrees, Dennis will prepare a draft for June 1<sup>st</sup>. He explained the arrangement that worked well 20 years ago, but no longer works today. The hours since then have increased dramatically, but not the salary. He basically puts in hours every day of the week. Rob asked if he were in a contract could the board determine his salary. Dennis explained that state statute says the board can set their own budget, but because there are conflicting laws, the town has to approve the funding which would be subject to town meeting.

**PLAN REVIEW** – There were no plans for review tonight.

Rob Thibeault made a motion to adjourn; Sarah Scheinfein seconded; roll call vote: all voted in favor; motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.