



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

November 28, 2022

**Members Present:** Robert Thibeault, John Wentzell, Sarah Barrette

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Dennis Costello (Health Agent), AnnMarie Muckenstrom (Town Nurse)

**Recorder:** Melanie Rich

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Robert Thibeault made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes dated September 26, 2022; Sarah Barrette seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

December 19, 2022 was confirmed as the next meeting date.

Waste Management Trash Pick-Up and Republic Services Trash Pick-Up – Republic Services sent a letter to customers (not the town) that they will no longer offer residential trash pickup effective November 14<sup>th</sup>. Rob thinks Waste Management will follow suit.

Waste & Recycling Committee – No information has been received. Rob did, however, receive a text that said he would set up a meeting and run it. He volunteered to be a member and assumed that the Board of Selectmen would run it, not the Board of Health. Sarah will follow up.

AnnMarie Muckenstrom was introduced and welcomed to the Board as the BOH Nurse.

Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health Update – Sarah said COVID numbers for weeks 10/30/22-11/12/22 for Boylston were 5.22%. There was an enormous spike in RSV among children. The next Boroughs meeting is 12/14/22 at 2PM. Both Sarah and AnnMarie will attend.

Grant to look into local Boards of Health working together – Sarah was asked by the Southborough Health Director about being part of a grant opportunity. She had a limited window to decide whether or not to include Boylston. She made the decision in the best interest of the Board to be included in the grant, but the Board has the authority to participate or withdraw their decision at any time. Southborough is looking to gather data in the Boroughs Towns to see how local Boards of Health can further work together. What we have learned from COVID and towns working together is that the state is pushing toward more town collaboration. Rob's interpretation was that the decision was driven by the town administration and not the Board and was under the impression that the Town Administrator made the decision without consulting the Board on a Board of Health matter. If it was a BOH matter, why

is the Town Administrator included and involved? COVID is driving so much money into public health and the funds go through the Department of DLS through Town Administrators, Managers, Counsels, etc. The money right now is driving regionalization and collaboration. Multiple surveys being done now are for the BOH. Dennis has no idea how much this particular grant is, as it was submitted by Southborough. Other grant money has been applied for by Northborough. Dennis said some of the duties of the Boroughs are shared, not regionalized.

### **AGENT'S REPORT**

Mark Anttila asked about bringing in Jay Billings, the Water Department Engineer. Dennis responded that he set up a meeting with Mr. Billings within the next two weeks about the wells and Zone 2. Mr. Anttila said the HOA is having their annual meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7PM; it's a community-wide meeting. Evergreen no longer has any responsibility for managing the FAST system; it's the HOA Board. Mr. Anttila said there were odors. Dennis drove by several times and didn't notice any. Mr. Anttila asked Dennis if septic systems should have any odor and was told that at times septic systems do emit odors.

COVID-19 Numbers – Numbers are good.

COVID Test Kits – The board received test kits; the expiration date has been extended. Sarah and Ann Marie will contact and distribute the kits to the Library, School Nurses, and Council on Aging.

Town Nurse (AnnMarie Muckenstrom) – Sarah was having trouble reaching the Council on Aging; her emails were getting bounced back. Sarah and AnnMarie met approximately three weeks ago and talked about the nursing needs; we need the right people to reach out to. Rob said reaching the seniors is a great place to start. Ann Marie will contact the COA tomorrow. Sarah will contact April about email accounts and IT contacting AnnMarie.

Private Burials – Dennis gave the board information he received from the attorney regarding the home burial. The board discussed it; more information at the next meeting.

### **PLAN REVIEW**

Lot 11 Longley Hill – The plan was revised and now meets all requirements; it was approved and stamped.

12 Bay Path Drive (John Wentzell) – John Wentzell recused himself. A letter from DCR was received stating the septic system is exempt from the provisions of the Act. The plan was approved and stamped.

Rob Thibeault made a motion to adjourn; John Wentzell seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.