



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 26, 2023

Members Present: Robert Thibeault (Chair), Sarah Barrette, John Wentzell (via remote)

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dennis Costello (Health Agent), Ann Marie Muckenstrom, Morgan Clark (Collins Center)

Recorder: Melanie Rich

The Chair opened the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

Sarah Barrette made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes dated May 22, 2023; Rob Thibeault seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

The July 24, 2023 BOH meeting was cancelled unless something pressing comes up. The August meeting will be held on August 28, 2023.

Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health Update – Ann Marie said Westborough and Southborough have a Tobacco Regulatory Commission; Northborough and Boylston do not. The budget for the contact tracing dropped \$160K per year; the total for next year is \$260K. Northborough is going to start social media with Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Gabrielle Knox is receiving a master's degree and is working on food insecurity and community resources.

Impact Melanoma Update – There are three donors, the Grange, Lions Club, and the Barn. The balance for the bill is \$1,309.60. Rob Thibeault motioned to go with three dispensers; Sarah Barrette seconded; all agreed; motion approved.

Regionalization vs. Shared Services Collins Center Grant – Morgan Clark, Public Service Manager for the Collins Center, was in attendance to answer any questions the board had. The state is pushing to share services. The board had concerns about regionalization and board jurisdiction. Ms. Clark assured the board that everyone is going to keep their boards. Her job is to see how services can be shared. She said the Collins Center does do a lot of regionalization projects; public health is a new area. Southborough received a Commonwealth Compact Best Practices grant. Southborough would like to share with Northborough and Boylston. She gave a project overview and explained the Work Plan as well as the Draft Assessment and Timeline. The ideal timeline is to be complete by December. Regarding the data review, whatever we can give her will help her. She said it's a roadmap, no position will be eliminated; it's up to each individual community on how they choose to proceed.

Jack Wentzell joined the meeting by telephone at 6:28 p.m.

Dennis said there was reluctance by himself and the board that was brought on by the fact that this was a regionalization concept, not a sharing concept. The board has no issues with sharing services; they are working out well and would like to expand on them. Rob said we are very different from Northborough and Southborough; we are the smallest community and were concerned that we would not fit into the mode of regionalization. He questioned if those are the two parties we should proceed with in this process. We've had shared services and it's been very effective for what's been provided for us. Rob wants to see the outcome and see if it's a really good fit for this community. Ms. Clark asked if we thought there were better partners for Boylston. Rob said in his opinion and looking at the landscape per capita, we have more of a rural community than Northborough and Southborough; we don't have the same needs and doesn't personally see it as a fit, but we have been a very effective partner with them with health needs. He would not be the outspoken person to stop it, but when partnering going forward didn't know, beside health needs, if it's a good fit. During COVID we didn't have the team to put something like what was done; and the same with flu clinics.

Sarah commented that under the Work Plan, it reads "a presentation of range options for 'regionalization' or 'sharing' services.....". It appears they are using the words interchangeably throughout the document and they are two very different things. She asked for more info on that. Healthwise, because they are bigger towns, have resources and grant money to form the GBPH, the COVID clinics ran well; they did our flu clinics as well as blood pressure clinics and checks; they have helped us out healthwise. Ann Marie is wonderful but part-time which makes it hard. Dennis said that's talking about going down the regionalization path rather than the sharing path. Ms. Clark said she always uses the words interchangeably, but if it's a sticking point (which it is for the board) she will mirror what the state says, "shared services". She said they are not going to regionalize the board or the budget; that is NOT on the table. She will only use "shared services".

Sarah asked about the list from the Town Administrator asking for the public health assessment for Southborough, Northborough, and Boylston. Ms. Clark said if we had the information easily accessible send it to her; it's background information she needs to meet with Dennis. Sarah said we were being asked by legal documents to get them and we thought we were being pressured into regionalization. Ms. Clark didn't know the information was requested the way it was; that was not the intent for the project. She said all three communities are her clients. Sarah asked how long the grant lasts for and was told it would be two years. Ms. Clark said the goal is that we would have good preliminary data and budget planning requests. The Town Administrator is our representative; the Advisory Team is comprised of the Town Administrator (Boylston), Kristin Black (Northborough), and Chelsea Malinowski (Southborough).

Jack left the meeting at 6:42 p.m. due to a bad connection.

Ms. Clark plans to have more than one meeting with each board member and can attend if the board needs her to. When the Draft Assessment is complete, she will attend to review it to get the board's input. Rob asked how often they meet and was told once a month virtually; the

next meeting is Thursday; Rob will attend that meeting and report back at the next BOH meeting. The board is not looking for regionalization but will entertain shared services.

Sarah Barrette made a motion that the board will make a decision on joining the Collins Center grant based upon Rob Thibeault's attendance at the Zoom meeting on Thursday, June 29th; Rob Thibeault seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

AGENT'S REPORT

Town Nurse Update – Ann Marie said the parade went well; she passed out many samples as well as fact sheets for Melanoma; she was impressed with the number of people that attended. She said Erin contacted her about the flu vaccines for possibly October. July is Vision Awareness month and August is National Immunization Awareness month for the kids going to school. The next Boroughs meeting is September 13th.

Dennis said the Mosquito Control Program is spraying in town; community dates are posted on the web. Through social media, Sarah posts that Boylston is part of the Mosquito Control Program; signing up is an easy process. Ann Marie left informational tick cards outside the town Clerk's office. She also said they are still doing Narcan training; Northborough's training is in August; Boylston's training is September 26th 5:30-6:00PM at the library.

Animal Inspector – The position is being advertised; not sure if there is any interest.

EDS Site Update – Dennis said it's done. We are working with Region 2; there are planners that are helping us. We changed all the pertinent information and removed the High School as the main resource for an Emergency Dispensing Site; the main site is the Town Hall. It's part of the EDS and mobile site.

PLAN REVIEW

220 East Temple Street Revision (Keith's Music House) – Revision of a previously approved plan; there was some unexpected ledge on the site. Configuration of the trenches was needed; it meets Title 5.

5 Mill Road (Kevin Haglund) – No issues.

Lot 11 Longley Hill Road Revision (Farooq Ansari) – Changes to the previously approved plan. The pump system was approved for a duplex pump; they only had to have one. The plan was changed to reflect that there is only one pump going in the pump chamber. This plan is approved for the septic system only.

100 Shrewsbury Street, Lot 2 (Brookside Apartments) – It's in Zone 2 and is restricted to 110 gallons per 10,000 square feet.

100 Main Street (Steven Berard) – No issues.

Sarah Barrette made a motion to accept all plans reviewed and approved tonight; Rob Thibeault seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

Having no further business to discuss, Rob Thibeault made a motion to adjourn; Sarah Barrette seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.