



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

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## MEETING MINUTES

April 27, 2020

**Members Present Remotely:** Sarah Scheinfein, John Wentzell, Robert Thibeault (11:13 a.m.)

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Dennis Costello

**Recorder:** Melanie Rich

The remote meeting was called to order at 11:04 a.m. Roll call was taken for members attending remotely: Sarah Scheinfein, Jack Wentzell and Robert Thibeault. Dennis Costello and Melanie Rich participated from the office. Brittany Blaney-Anderson (WBAC) hosted the meeting.

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.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

John Wentzell made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes dated February 24, 2020; Sarah Scheinfein seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

May 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. was tentatively confirmed as the next meeting date. Dennis Costello said the board may have a meeting prior to that because of COVID-19.

### **AGENT'S REPORT**

Housing Update – A Correction Order letter was sent to Mrs. Crandall in February via certified mail (which went unclaimed) as well as regular mail. Her daughter came into the office in March and explained that her brother who lives with their mother has not given her any information; Melanie provided her a copy of the letter. Due to COVID-19, Dennis has been unable to track it closely, but all parties are now notified.

COVID-19 Virus Update – As of this meeting, there are 9 positive cases. It does not account for anyone who may have had it, tested for it, or think they have it; that is an unknown number. The board only receives positive cases that are reported.

Once Dennis receives a call from the Public Health Nurse, he contacts the Police and Fire dispatch with the address to let them know they may be going into a residence that is positive;

he then contacts Sarah, Melanie and April to update the website and Facebook. Because of the number of cases and labs reporting, there have been lags in cases being brought forth.

Dennis said he was informed that there are one or two group homes in town; he was unaware of that. They were looking for equipment from the Board of Health but had to request it from the state. He spoke with the manager of Sun Banke Village who said a lot of the residents don't have internet access. He has been trying to contact agencies to have them tested (similar to nursing homes, but have not gone through the state protocol to be tested). Sarah asked how many people are in each development. Sun Banke Village has approximately 18 apartments; the number of residents in the group homes is unknown; the town is not notified. Information has gone to the state and they are trying to help.

The office building is closed to the public; however, it is open for the employees to work and continue to work. Jack Wentzell asked why the employees are still in the building and was told that last week the Board of Selectmen created a Work from Home Policy on a case by case basis; it is up to the boards to decide if their employee can work from home. Dennis and Melanie have been working from both the office and from home. Melanie continues to check telephone messages and emails after hours and on weekends and holidays in order not to miss any critical information. Dennis also works every day, checks telephone messages and emails, and is accessible seven days/week. The Board of Health office is doing well with everyday work and remains available to the public during normal business hours and will continue to do so.

Over the past month there have been calls with complaints about workers at construction sites not properly protected; gas stations closing the bathrooms; dog walkers and people not wearing masks. Timberbrook has had quite a few complaints about contractors, and there have been calls from other towns about landscapers from our town working in their town. Some are valid complaints; some are not; all complaints are addressed.

Region 2 was split and a new region formed with the CMRPC which is helping approximately one-third of the towns in Region 2; they are part of a funding mechanism. Boylston applied for \$30K and was given \$5K; a second round of funding was received in the amount of \$5K which can be used for overtime staffing and nursing (no idea of what that cost will be). Dennis said there was also another type of mechanism; we partnered with 12 other towns that work with the same nurses and received \$36K. Jack asked what we are doing with nurse. Dennis said the board contracts the nurse and she works the MAVEN system. He explained that when cases come in from the state, the nurse is the contact and does contact tracing; she has to identify the locality and jurisdiction they are in, contact the person identified who has been identified as positive, ask them about their contacts and attempt to contact everyone on the list the positive person provided; they would then have to quarantine.

The state has started a new contact collaborative; they hired 1,200-2,000 people to do that same work. Cases are coming fast, but because people are staying home, it has slowed. In early May, that group of people are going to take all the cases that come in and do the initial contact tracing and will forward that to the Public Health Nurse and then the Board of Health. After we

get over the hump and things open up again, the group will be used to find contacts; hopefully it will be a quicker operation. The nurses have mixed feelings about it.

Sarah has participated in some meetings; Dennis attends five meetings/week. He is back in Region 2 as an active participant in teleconference meetings on Wednesdays at 9AM.

He said we have no idea what the budget is; hopefully we can sustain ourselves and the nursing. Going forward we will be reviewing the plans we have for the Emergency Dispensing Site; we are being asked to revisit them. Currently we have a plan for a drive-thru which is the best scenario if we have to assist a lot of people. We also have a plan to use the High School, but does not think it's a good one because of the traffic flow; same for the Municipal Office. In June/July we are going to need to enlist doctors for Orders; we will need 6-8 nurses, and volunteers to help as well; we need to get ready for August. It's another planning for the unknown. Dennis said the state has not given any indication of what it may be except to say that it may be something and we should be prepared for it.

Dennis has been in contact with the different agencies in town, i.e., Lions Club, Food Pantry, Council on Aging, Town Administrator, Highway Department, Light Department, Water Department, etc., and agrees we can all work well together.

Dennis is asking the board today for documentation on how to open up the Municipal Building as it relates to the office work. He would like the board to own non-contact thermometers; perhaps use them upon entering the building. The cost is approximately \$150/each and suggested starting with three; Sarah suggested 3-5. Melanie will find out where they can be purchased and order them. Dennis said we have a standing order for PPE with Region 2 from the National Stockpile; however, the PPE hasn't reached the smaller communities yet.

Sarah and Dennis discussed a post card or flyer mailing after visiting Sun Banke Village and finding that many don't have internet access; we should touch base and make sure everyone is accounted for. Sarah will work on it. Code Red calls have not been made because it might cause a panic.

The Declaration of Emergency was tabled for now; it would do nothing for the Board of Health; not make the job easier or more difficult. The Board of Selectmen agreed that the Board of Health has the power to enforce isolation and quarantine.

Sarah will put on Facebook that the office is closed to the public and let them know that sharps are not being accepted; however, if they need containers, they can call the office and one can be left in the lobby for them. Dennis continues to inspect septic systems and recently licensed a person to start at the Sewall Street apartments; he will meet with him prior to starting.

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) Stormwater – The Board of Health's role is and always has been to enforce the Bylaw for Conservation (e.g., sewers being connected to drains; water being directed into the wetlands). Jack asked what enforcement does the board have. Dennis said enforcement is education and compliance.

**PLAN REVIEW**

385 Green Street (Jeffrey & Ashley Eknaian Living Trust) – John Wentzell made a motion to approve the plan; Sarah Scheinfein seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

70 Reservoir Street (Howley) – John Wentzell made a motion to approve the plan; Robert Thibeault seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

John Wentzell made a motion to adjourn; Robert Thibeault seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m.