



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

May 23, 2022

Members Present: Robert Thibeault, John Wentzell, Sarah Scheinfein

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dennis Costello

Recorder: Melanie Rich

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Sarah Scheinfein made a motion to approve the meeting minutes dated April 26, 2022; Rob Thibeault seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

June 27, 2022 was confirmed as the next meeting date.

AGENT'S REPORT

COVID-19 – COVID is on the rise. It's very contagious, but not severe. Cases are rising in all of Massachusetts. Boylston reported 28 cases in the last two weeks.

Town Nurse – Sarah revised the ad for the town nurse position. When posted, responses will go directly to her. A document with the official job requirements is needed; Sarah will provide it.

Greater Boroughs Partner for Health Update – Dennis will forward the email he received from Kristin Black inviting him to a meeting at 9AM on May 31st to review home wellness checks challenges and successes. Rob and Sarah should have been included on the email since they are the representatives. Sarah said the Boroughs nurses are continuing with calls regarding COVID-19 and MAVEN; they are planning a COVID-19 booster clinic for ages 5-11; the shared Health Agent/Inspector position has been posted; only a few interested applicants. Homes wellness checks are being done by the contracted nurses. The Boroughs is closing in at year end and focusing on spending year end funds on nursing and wellness; PPE will be purchased for the region. Isabella Caruso will be full-time this summer and will be available for projects.

Cemetery Regulation – Dennis showed the Town Planner the proposed zoning bylaw provided by the attorney for Shalin Lu. He has contacted other Health Departments to assist him with regulations. He also contacted MAHB and it has been put out to all MA towns. Dennis spoke with the attorney and reminded her that the BOH will need a regulation in addition to a zoning or general bylaw.

Opiate Funding – The federal government settled with Johnson & Johnson as well as other distributors allowing local towns to receive funding; Boylston will receive approximately \$18K for the first year followed by \$9K, \$6K, etc.; it will continue for several years for treatment, prevention, recovery services, and education related to the opiate crisis. There was discussion on how to spend the money. Kristin Black thought the Boroughs could put something together and hire someone to oversee an opiate project. It will begin in FY23. Details for implementing are not finalized yet. Dennis will follow up. The board commented that our town nurse could be involved as well.

Community Health Assessments – The Boroughs would like to get together and possibly have a six-town Community Health Assessment done with the use of ARPA funds. This will be an overview of the overall health and wellness of the town. It can include a number of things which the board will be looking at. This could be another role for our town nurse to be involved in. A couple of towns were quoted anywhere from \$60-\$100K depending on how many towns participated; it will take approximately 6-9 months to complete. Dennis said going forward we should be involved and depending on how we want to get our CHA, said it is a possibility of going to UMass Hospital to see if they will contact a CHA for the town. He will follow up with UMass first.

Consider Waiving Construction Permit Fee for 69 Melrose Street – The board denied the waiver of the construction permit fee since the person requesting it did not pay for the permit.

Reorganization – Jack Wentzell made a motion to make Rob Thibeault and Sarah Scheinfein Co-Chairmans; each will have assigned duties; Rob Thibeault seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

PLAN REVIEW

18 Diamond Hill Avenue (Seymour) – Approved.

Rob Thibeault made a motion to adjourn; Sarah Scheinfein seconded; all voted in favor; motion approved.

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