

Wellesley Board of Health
Remote Meeting via Zoom
Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.

Present:

Board:

Shepard Cohen, MPA, Chair
Marcia Testa Simonson, MPH, PhD, Vice Chair
Linda Oliver Grape, PA-C, MPH, Secretary

Staff:

Deadra Doku-Gardner, MS, Administrator
Leonard Izzo, MS, RS, CHO, Director
Cheryl Lefman, MA, Community Health Coordinator
Ann Marie McCauley, Public Health Nursing Supervisor

In attendance:

David Lussier, Superintendent, Wellesley Public Schools
Beth Sullivan Woods, Select Board
Shira Doron, MD, Resident

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

The Board of Health approved the meeting minutes of April 13, 2022.

Director's Report

Leonard Izzo reported on a recent meeting regarding office space at the Warren building. The Health Department will eventually be taking over a classroom on the second floor. Mr. Izzo elaborated on a building project that will also be part of a large HVAC project. The Health Department is expected to gain control of the room at the end of the summer.

Mr. Izzo reported that he is working on a space utilization plan for staff as there are two new employees beginning at the start of May 2022.

1. Administration
 - a) Board Reorganization

Shepard Cohen reported that he will be stepping down as chair in the coming months and there will be a reorganization of board member positions.

1. Community Health

a) COVID Update

Ann Marie McCauley reported that most individuals that are ill are self-testing. These tests are not reportable therefore there is only a snapshot of the numbers of those that are actually positive. In the past week there were 131 cases in Wellesley, 56% of these were college cases.

b) COVID Vaccine Clinics

Ann Marie McCauley reported that the nursing staff continues to run Covid clinics; there have been two clinics thus far. The next clinic is scheduled for May 12, 2022 (vaccine expires May 20, 2022).

c) Keep Well Clinics

Ann Marie McCauley reported that she continues to hold keep well clinics however very few people are attending.

d) Mental Health

Shepard Cohen reported that he has sent out the first revision of the HRS FY23 contract. The Board will review the contract.

e) Wellesley Public Schools (WPS) Update

David Lussier provided an update on the increase of cases due to school vacation week. Today, 74 cases were reported at the secondary level. Many cases reported at the start of this week were for results generated a week ago. Everyone was supposed to have tested before returning to school. Additional test kits are going out to parents, students, and faculty.

Dr. Lussier reported that some students that participated in the art program in Madrid, Spain have tested positive. Some of the trip chaperones and students are still in Madrid recuperating.

Dr. Lussier reported that following a meeting with members of the Health Department, it was determined that a large chorale group consisting of ninth graders and high school students postponed an event for three to four weeks.

Dr. Lussier highlighted that although the numbers have increased there has not been any serious illness. Linda Oliver Grape inquired as to if there were any sub-groups – individuals participating in a particular activity where the preponderance of cases might be coming from. Cases seem to be due to travel and events that took place over the holiday week.

2. Environmental Health

a) Food Establishment Update

Leonard Izzo reported that one of the new pizza locations has opened. Over the next few weeks several other food establishments will also be opening.

b) DPW: Truck Trade Show

Leonard Izzo reported on the DPW trade show scheduled for May 4. He said that there are several food trucks expected on site, however no permits have come forward yet.

c) Boston Sports Club (BSC)

Leonard Izzo reported that BSC wants to open the outdoor pool complex at end of May. He has reached out to the Building Department and to the State as some of the pools are expected to remain empty.

d) Body Art Establishment

Leonard Izzo reported on the possibility of a new body art establishment coming to town. The operators may be making a variance request for a mop sink in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deadra Doku Gardner, Administrator