

Town of Wellesley
Board of Health Meeting (online remote)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 18, 2022, 9:00 AM

Present

Board:

Shepard Cohen, MPA, Chair
Marcia Testa Simonson, MPH, PhD, Vice Chair
Linda Oliver Grape, PA-C, MPH, Secretary
Carol Hannenberg, MD, Associate Member

Staff:

Lenny Izzo, Health Department Director
Deadra Doku-Gardner, MS, Administrator
Cheryl Lefman, MA, Community Health Coordinator
Ann Marie McCauley, RN, Public Health Nursing Supervisor
Joyce Saret, MSW, Senior Community Social Worker
Jhana Wallace, Community Health Coordinator

In attendance:

Linda Chow, Vice Chair, Wellesley School Committee
Shira Doron, MD, Resident
Leda Eizenberg, Chair, Wellesley School Committee
Ashley Hulme, M.Ed BSN RN, Director of Nursing Services
Dr. David Lussier, Superintendent of Schools
Beth Sullivan-Woods, Secretary, Wellesley Select Board

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 AM

1. Chairman's Report

The Board Chairman, Shepherd Cohen, made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the July 15, 2022, Board of Health. Ms. Oliver Grape seconded the motion. Ms. Oliver Grape voted yay. Ms. Testa Simonson voted yay. The minutes from the July 15, 2022, meeting were approved.

2. Director's Report

a) School COVID-19 Planning

Dr. David Lussier, Superintendent of Schools and Ashley Hulme, M.Ed BSN RN, Director of Nursing Services for the Wellesley Public Schools spoke about COVID preparations and school re-opening for the Wellesley School District.

Dr. Lussier shared the new Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) guidelines.

The Board and School Department staff discussed the values of testing the week prior to school opening and determined that requiring a single test prior to school start would not be beneficial.

Mr. Cohen discussed the importance of reminding families about COVID vaccination. Dr. Lussier reported complexity determining “fully vaccinated” and asked for support from the Health Department on messaging for families with young children. Mr. Cohen asked the Health Department for a paper clarifying COVID vaccination guidelines to be ready for the start of school. Dr. Lussier invited the Health Department to participate in a webinar for families. Ms. Oliver Grape wished to include importance of flu vaccine in all messaging.

Dr. Lussier suggested they could give out surplus COVID test kits at schools with appropriate messaging around testing at home.

3. Community Health

a) COVID-19 Update/Planning

Ms. McCauley reported that COVID numbers are down. Positivity rate remains the same but the number of people getting PCR tests is dropping. Ms. McCauley also mentioned there are no current plans for COVID vaccine clinics but that the Health Department is prepared to offer clinics if needed.

Mr. Cohen reported that COVID virus in wastewater has decreased but monitoring the numbers for the next few months is important.

Mr. Izzo reported planned calls with the colleges in Town and shared some practices colleges will have in place for incoming students.

b) Flu

Ms. McCauley reported Flu clinics are being planned and that all Health Department Flu clinics will likely have COVID vaccines available.

c) Monkeypox

Mr. Cohen inquired about Wellesley College (WC). Mr. Izzo reported that WC has no cases and Ms. McCauley shared that the Health Department has shared what resources are available with the college.

Dr. Doron reported that the outbreak is going strong with some signs of approaching a plateau and shared current vaccine availability and information. The Health Department will include messaging on Monkeypox in an upcoming bulletin.

4. Environmental Health

a) Variance Request: Irrigation Well at 5 Clocktower Drive

Mr. Izzo reported that the Health Department has received a last-minute variance request for an irrigation well at 5 Clocktower Drive. The request is for a variance to enable a setback from a subsurface drain. The request is for 75 feet. Mr. Izzo reports there is no impact to issuing the variance and requests that the BOH approve the variance. Mr. Cohen moved to approve the variance request for 5 Clocktower Drive. Dr. Testa Simonson seconded the motion. Ms. Oliver Grape voted yay. Dr. Testa Simonson voted yay. The variance was approved.

5. Administration

a) Healthy Wellesley Fund

Leonard Izzo requested approval to use the Healthy Wellesley Fund to cover the cost of staff membership in and attendance to the American Public Health Association Annual Conference to be held in Boston this Fall. The Board of Health voted to approve \$5,000 in funding from the fund to support this request.

The next meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled for September 8, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Jhana Wallace, Community Health Coordinator