

Leanne Jasset, Chair
Mary Ellard, Vice Chair
Noreen Guilfoyle,
Member

Kylee Sullivan, Director
Renee Johnson,
Administrator



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TOWN OF DEDHAM BOARD OF HEALTH

Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2021

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and given the current prohibitions on gatherings imposed by Governor Baker's March 23, 2020 "Order Assuring Continued Operation of Essential Services in the Commonwealth, Closing Workplaces, and Prohibiting Gatherings of More than 10 People," this public hearing was conducted virtually, as allowed by Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §20.

The following Board of Health Members were present:

Leanne Jasset, Chair
Mary Ellard, Vice Chair
Noreen Guilfoyle, Member

The following staff were present:

Kylee Sullivan, Health Director

The following members of the public were present:

DedhamTV
Brenda Harrington
Felix Zemel

Chairwoman Jasset called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from November 4, 2020, November 18, 2020, February 11, 2021, and March 25, 2021. Chairwoman Jasset made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Vice Chair, Mary Ellard and seconded the motion. Chairwoman Jasset and Vice Chair Ellard voted in favor. Member Guilfoyle abstained as she was not a member of the Board of Health for the meetings.

Director's Report and General Updates

Cryogenic Chamber Therapy: On May 26, 2021, the Health Department conducted an inspection of Fire and Ice Spa, for both the cryogenic chamber therapy operations, as well as the sauna operations. While the inspection was being conducted the Health Director and the Public Health nurse, Jessica Tracy, observed multiple violations related to the cryogenic chamber therapy operations. The Health Department issued a letter to the establishment on

May 27, 2021 outlining the violations. All violations have been addressed except for one outstanding violation. The establishment did not comply with the requirement to have an automatic shutoff system in place in the event the oxygen levels fall below 20%. Establishment owner Brenda Harrington provided the Department with information about the current procedures for responding to events in which oxygen levels fall below 20%.

Currently there are no other communities in Massachusetts that regulate this at the local Board of Health Level. The Health Director reached out to surrounding communities that had Cryogenic spas in their communities and she found that communities do not regulate or permit cryogenic operations.

Vice Chair Ellard stated that it would be wise to invite the owners of the establishment to discuss the current shutoff procedures. Chairwoman Jasset shared that taking a closer look at the regulations and then posting a public meeting to discuss the changes would make the most sense. Chairwoman Jasset made a motion to have a public hearing regarding the cryogenic chamber therapy regulations and amendments. Vice Chair Mary Ellard seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Saunas and Steam Rooms

The Health Director noted that currently saunas and steam rooms are permitted through the pool permitting process. The Director sought guidance from the MA Department of Public Health Community Sanitation Program on this matter. The Community Sanitation Program stated that saunas and steam rooms do not fall under the pool code and the State does not have regulations specific to saunas and steam rooms. The Director researched other communities to see if and how they permit saunas and steam rooms. It was determined that Norwood is the only community who permits saunas and steam rooms currently. Madam Chair asked that the director look into the Town of Norwood's regulations to gain more clarification.

Board of Health Goals

The Board plans to revisit all Board of Health regulations as they have not been reviewed since 2019.

Chairwoman Jasset reported that the Board is interested in gaining access to the Department's new inspection software program. The Director stated she will speak with the Assistant Town Manager about the feasibility of this.

The Department's complaint binder system was discussed. The Director reported that the binder system creates issues related to public record requests received by the Department. Instead, the Director has implemented an online record keeping system using a shared excel file and resources in the Department's online shared drive.

Madam Chair expressed concerns of seniors not able to afford the \$5 sharps container fee. The Director reported that medical sharps in FDA-approved sharps containers are collected at no cost from residents, however there is a \$5 fee for purchasing sharps containers through the

Health Department. Madam Chair recommended working with the Council on Aging to assist seniors with this cost.

Summer Schedule for Board of Health Meetings

The Board of Health will go back to the once-a-month meeting schedule during the summer.

Directors Report

The Health Department is currently reviewing summer camp applications and completing inspections of the facilities before camp starts to ensure safe and healthy environments for the campers. The camp application process can be lengthy as there is an extensive review of procedures, medical records, and the camp facility.

Pool inspections are being also completed.

The Dedham Farmers Market is slated to start on Wednesday, June 16, 2021. Food vendors have submitted application and all food vendors will be inspected and permitted on the first day of the Market.

COVID-19

At the end of last week, MDPH issued updated guidance for determining close contacts of COVID-19 cases. Historically, a close contact included anyone who was within six feet for 15 minutes or more of someone who had COVID-19. But this past week the definition was updated to exclude outdoor settings. Going forward, close contacts will only be identified as someone who was within six feet for 15 minutes or more during an indoor setting.

Chairwoman Leanne Jasset made a motion to adjourn. Member Guilfoyle Seconded. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

This is to certify that the above is a true and accurate record of the minutes of the Board of Health's Meeting held on June 9, 2021 which minutes were approved on August 19, 2021.

Leanne Jasset – Chairman