

Leanne Jasset, Chair
Kathy Reda, Vice Chair
Mary Ellard, Member

Kylee Sullivan, Director
Renee Johnson,
Administrator



450 Washington St
Dedham, MA 02026
(781) 751-9220
www.dedham-ma.gov

TOWN OF DEDHAM BOARD OF HEALTH

Meeting Minutes of April 7, 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
Kathy Reda, Vice Chair
Mary Ellard, Member

The following staff were also present:

Kylee Sullivan, Health Director

The following members of the public were present:

Sarah MacDonald, Dedham Civic Pride/Select Board Member
Stop Stigma Against People with Addition
Dedham TV

Chairwoman Jasset called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Annual Spring Cleanup:

The Chair introduced Sarah MacDonald, Select Board member and Dedham Civic Pride appointee for the Town of Dedham. Ms. MacDonald shared that Dedham Civic Pride is working with DPW Director Joe Flannagan to create an Annual Spring Cleanup plan in compliance with COVID-19 safety standards. The proposal includes social distancing and safe practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Instead of hosting a one-day event, the plan is to encourage residents to cleanup areas around Town over the course of two weeks. Documenting cleanup efforts by taking pictures and using the hashtag #OneBagDedham on social media is encouraged to help increase participation. Efforts can be logged using a Google form to keep track of the numbers of bags filled and the amount of time spent on the cleanup. After consulting with the Health Director, Ms. MacDonald reported the event will comply with the State's Safety Standards for Parks, Open Space, and Outdoor Education Programs. Vice Chair Kathy Reda asked where the accumulated trash will be disposed after the cleanup. Ms. MacDonald reported folks can dispose of the trash with their household curbside pickup. If needed, DPW can pick up larger bags of trash.

Chairwoman Jasset made a motion to approve the Annual Spring Cleanup plan as proposed by Ms. MacDonald. Member Mary Ellard and Vice Chair Kathy Reda seconded the motion. All were in a favor. The Board thanked everyone involved for their dedication and commitment to the annual event to make it a safe and enjoyable activity for everyone.

Director's Report and General Updates

Meeting Minutes: The current initiative in the Health Department is to convert all the recordings from the past year into meeting minutes for the approval of the Board.

Temporary Outdoor Dining: The Health Department has conducted inspections at the Halfway Café and Oscars. More establishments will be prepared for inspections next week.

Dedham Square: A sewage blockage and leak in Dedham Square affected some food establishments. Specifically, Cathay Kitchen, Ron's Ice Cream, Kouzina's and Pancho's Taqueria. The Health Director conducted inspections on Monday, April 5, and requested the businesses close so that they were not using water and contributing to the leak. On Tuesday, April 6, a plumber determined this issue was with the pipes in the building and now an issue of the public sewer infrastructure. The building owner hired a drain company to remove the blockage which successfully occurred on Tuesday morning. Tuesday afternoon, the Health Director and Health Inspector conducted reopening inspections to confirm that any leaks had been addressed and that any sewage had been properly cleaned and sanitized. All establishments were approved to open.

CVS Providence Highway: The store has been closed since a fire on March 7. The Assistant Health Director performed a preliminary inspection of the facility before the store received a shipment of prepackaged foods to ensure the facility was free of all debris from the fire and the new construction had been completed. The store is still not open to the public and will be expected to go through a formal preoperational inspection before reopening.

86 Riverside Drive: On Sunday, April 4, there was a fire on this property. The property was condemned by the Building Department. The Director conducted a plain view inspection of the property earlier this week and observed debris strewn on the exterior of the property because of the fire. The Health Department will issue a Housing Code violation order letter and will work with the property owner and Building Department to bring the property into compliance.

25 Boathouse Lane: In 2015, the property owner submitted an alternative septic system plan to the department that required variance approval from the Board. The Board granted the variance approval to have the alternative system in town in July of 2015. Health Department files are unclear whether the plans were officially reviewed and signed off on. This is an issue because the system was never built in the property, and the property owner is looking to sell the property. Currently the Health Director is working with Mass DEP to determine how to best handle this situation. It is a possibility the plans were submitted in 2015, and that new plans may have to be submitted because 2016 changes to the standard conditions for secondary treatment units such as the system proposed.

14, Arbor Lane: The Assistant Health Director is working with the property owner who is continually removing the clutter on the exterior of the property.

66 Norwell Road: This case is expected to go to Housing Court on May 5 due to clutter on the exterior of the property. The property owner has been in poor health and a family member is helping and has been very cooperative. The property is now almost free of debris and clutter. The Health Department is hoping to achieve compliance, and in that case, dismiss the court case.

New Inspection Software: The Health Department received devices for new Food Code and Housing Code software. The goal is to schedule trainings in the following weeks, to get more acquainted with the system, and then be proficient on the software to be used on inspections, hopefully, by the end of April.

Public Health Nursing: COVID-19 vaccine second doses were administered to a group of 31 homebound residents. Additionally, 136 residents of the Dedham Housing Authority were provided a second dose. 40 residents who received a first dose at various clinics also received their second dose. Board members Kathy Reda and Mary Ellard participated in these clinics.

DOSA: The Coalition is in the process of hiring a program coordinator. The search has been narrowed down to two candidates who they will be interviewing in second round interviews next week. DOSA will provide a stipend to high school students as Youth Ambassadors. These Youth Ambassadors will educate their peers with the goal of increasing youth engagement in DOSA. The Coalition is also looking to fill its vice chair position. Candidates have until the end of next week to put their name in, and then online elections will be held. DOSA has entered a partnership for health equity with a group called Prevention Solutions. They will facilitate a working group to promote health equity and racial justice. The group will meet once every two or three weeks to examine local data, policies, and various coalition structures to generate recommendations for addressing health disparities and inequalities.

Board of Health Meeting Packets: The Health Director will provide a packet of information, containing draft meeting minutes, and the office report to the Board for review prior to meetings with the goal to give the Board enough time to review the materials with ample time.

COVID-19 Updates: Dedham Public Schools, grades kindergarten through five, returned to in person learning this Monday. The Massachusetts vaccine rollout plan changed on Monday where it opened vaccine eligibility to persons 55 years of age and older, as well as residents with one certain medical condition that aligns with the list provided by the CDC. Vaccine will become available to anyone 16 years and older on April 19th. Dedham COVID-19 cases are currently at a 26-case increase from last Board meeting. On April 1, there was a total of 2269 confirmed cases. Dedham has had 183 probable cases to date, and 94 deaths. Massachusetts has surpassed 17,000 deaths statewide.

Other Announcements: The Health Director stated that it would be Vice Chair Kathy Reda's last meeting with the Board of Health. The Board members expressed how wonderful it was having Ms. Reda on the Board and how grateful they were for her service.

Vice Chair Kathy Reda made a motion to adjourn. Member Mary Ellard Seconded. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 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 April 7, 2021 which minutes were approved on July 7, 2021.

Leanne Jasset – Chairman