

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

Bridget Sweet, Intern
Director



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TOWN OF DEDHAM BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes of March 12, 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 present:

Bridget Sweet, Interim Health Director

Chairwoman Jasset called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

The Chairwoman opened the meeting for discussion and vote on a substitute motion for Warrant Article 16 being brought before the spring 2021 Annual Town meeting, on Monday, May 17, 2021. She shared that the Warrant Article had been reviewed and discussed with the Finance and Warrant Committee. Town Manager, Leon Goodwin had been present during these discussions and invited Town Counsel. The Finance and Warrant Committee voted to indefinitely postpone the Warrant Article. Madam Chair asked the Board to consider a substitute motion and revise the language in the original motion. She explained that the motion's purpose was to change a charter that had been updated six years ago. Historically, elected boards had the authority of appointment and direct report of department directors. When the charter was revised there were five elected boards with the authority of appointment and direct report, including the Board of Health, Planning, Assessors, Library and Parks & Recreation. At that time, a substitute motion was created and two of the boards (Library and Parks & Recreation) requested exclusion from the vote. The three Elected Boards remaining chose to undergo the charter change. Madam Chair suggested that the Board of Health moves forward with this motion at the Annual Town Meeting. She further stated that the urgency of public health requires strong communication.

Madam Chair felt that after listening to the recommendations of the review committee that the language should be changed to remove the contingency that the Board of Health members meet annually to appoint a Health Director for a term of one year, until a qualified successor is chosen. Also, she recommended striking that the vacancy may be filled by a member of the Board for the remainder of the unexpired term. Madam Chair asked that the Board move to a substitute motion with the proposed language changes. Member Mary Ellard and Vice Chair Kathy Reda seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Madam Chair made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chair Kathy Reda and Member Mary Ellard Seconded. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 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 March 12, 2021 which minutes were approved on July 7, 2021.

Leanne Jasset – Chairman