

Leanne Jasset, Chair
Mary Ellard, Vice Chair
Noreen Guilfoyle,
Member
Kylee Sullivan, Director



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

TOWN OF DEDHAM BOARD OF HEALTH

Meeting Minutes of September 28, 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:

Chris Bartlett
Brandi Santos

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

The Board reviewed the minutes from August 5, 2020, August 18, 2020, August 26, 2020, and September 23, 2020. Vice Chair Mary Ellard made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Chairwoman Jasset 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.

Variance Hearing - The Learning Experience Garbage Disposal:

Director Sullivan reported that The Learning Experience, a childcare center, is requesting a variance from the Board of Health's Food Service Establishments Regulations requirement of a garbage disposal. The childcare center reports that they will be serving pre-cooked and pre-packaged items, with minimal food preparation and thus no food scraps needing disposal on site. Vice Chair Mary Ellard asked if plates will be rinsed at the childcare center or if they will use disposal dishes. Brandi Santos, Center Director, reported that disposable plates will be used and thrown away. Member Guilfoyle made a motion to grant the 6.02 garbage disposal requirement variance. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Ellard. All were in favor.

34 Hyde Park Street:

Discussion was tabled as information was not provided to the Health Department. Vice Chair Ellard asked if the property was accessible to Hyde Park Ave or a side street as it is a corner lot. Vice Chair Ellard requested having this information when this property is heard in front of the Board.

Board of Health General Regulations:

Town Counsel has not responded to the Board's questions about these Regulations. Director Sullivan reported that Milton and Wellesley also have similar Regulations, however overall, other communities do not have Board of Health General Regulations. Chairwoman Jasset asked for clarification. Director Sullivan explained that these Regulations are a "catch-all" for specifics of other Board of Health Regulations, including variance requirements. Boards of Health in other communities do not have this "catch-all" through a general set of regulations. Vice Chair Ellard reported she has more questions/comments about the Regulations and does not feel ready to vote at this time, as she would like MAHB's comments. Chairwoman Jasset reported that she contacted MAHB regarding these regulations and is awaiting a response. This was tabled to the next meeting.

Director's Report and General Updates**Administrative Assistant:**

The position has been vacant since August 13, 2021. A senior volunteer is helping in the office once a week and interviews are being conducted. The Department is working with Human Resources to offer the position not a final candidate.

Greenlodge Elementary School:

Last week, there were five COVID-19 cases in one classroom at Greenlodge. The Department worked closely with the School Department and school nurses to notify families and quarantine students. The School Department received permission from DESE to make the classroom remote during a quarantine period. The Quarantine period ends on Monday, October 4, 2021. Member Guilfoyle asked what happens if class resumes on Monday, October 4th and there is a new positive case before then. Director Sullivan reported that any students tested positive they would have to follow isolation procedures and the remainder of students would be able to return to school as they would not be contacts due to remote learning.

COVID-19 Booster Vaccine:

FDA approved the Pfizer booster at least six months after completion of 2-dose series for 65+, long term care residents, and 50-64 with underlying medical conditions. The FDA reported that the following may get a booster: 18-49 with underlying medical conditions, 18-64 who live or work somewhere that makes them high risk of getting COVID-19. Director Sullivan stressed this was only approved for those who have previously completed a 2-dose series of Pfizer vaccine; this was not approved for Moderna or Johnson & Johnson.

COVID-19:

There have been 2,695 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Dedham since the start of the pandemic. There have been 214 probable cases and 95 deaths. Director Sullivan reported a steady, gradual increase in COVID-19 cases in Town. This aligns with what is being seen across the Commonwealth.

Senior Flu Clinic:

There will be a senior flu clinic on Thursday, October 7, 2021 at the Legion from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Seniors have been asked to call the Health Department in advance to register.

Vice Chair Ellard asked for clarify registering for flu registration. Director Sullivan explained that if someone calls to register for their flu vaccine, they should leave a message with their name and phone

number if their call is not answered. Health Department staff will return their call and schedule their vaccine.

Public Flu Clinic:

There will be a public flu clinic on Saturday, October 16, 2021 at the Middle School from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Flyers were just finalized, and the clinic will be advertised. Residents are being asked to register online in advance.

2021 Board of Health Meeting Schedule:

Chairwoman Jasset recommended a monthly meeting schedule. Vice Chair Ellard reported the 2nd Tuesday of every month works well for her. Member Guilfoyle agreed that Tuesdays work well for her. Chairwoman Jasset recommended having meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of every month but that this can be adjusted as needed.

Old/New Business:

66 Norwell Road: Assistant Health Director Flanagan is conducting weekly inspections. To date, eight 30-yard dumpsters have been filled. The first floor has been cleared and now the second floor is being worked on. The roof has been repaired. The exposed wires on the front of the dwelling have been capped and there are lights installed. The property owner is living with his nephew. The property remains vacant and condemned. After checking with the State’s Community Sanitation Program who reported that because the property is condemned, as long as progress is being made, there is no timeline to achieve compliance. A hearing with the Board of Health is not required to lift the condemnation order.

Chicken Permitting: Concerns about an unpermitted chicken coop at 295 Walnut Street were discussed. The Health Department confirmed the presence of chickens yesterday and owner has initiated the domestic animal application process. Vice Chair Ellard would like to see this property owner complete the required application process in accordance with the Domestic Animal Regulations. Chairwoman Jasset asked about an appropriate timeframe for submitting an application. Director Sullivan reported that two weeks is a reasonable timeframe.

Vice Chair Ellard made a motion to adjourn. Member Guilfoyle Seconded. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 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 September 28, 2021, which minutes were approved on October 19, 2021.

Leanne Jasset – Chairman