

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

Kylee Sullivan, Director
Mavis Stephany Lopez
Silva, Administrator



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TOWN OF DEDHAM BOARD OF HEALTH

Meeting Minutes of November 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

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from May 22, 2020 and May 29, 2020. Vice Chair Mary Ellard motioned 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.

Discussion of Dedham Public Schools Winter Events: Maria Antonucci, Director of Health Services for the Dedham Public Schools sought guidance from the Board regarding upcoming winter/holiday gatherings. The Board, as well as the Director of Health Services, Maria Antonucci, and Health Director, Kylee Sullivan agreed that current DESE/Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's guidelines should continue to be followed and endorsed procedures as presented by Maria Antonucci.

Hearing for Harrows Chicken Pies/Grease Trap Variance Request: Harrows Chicken Pies sought to receive a variance from current rules and regulations surrounding the maintenance of grease traps. Current Board of Health regulations require food establishments to conduct monthly cleaning of grease traps. Harrows Chicken Pies requested a variance due to most of their product being prepared and cooked off-site. Jillian from harrows was present on behalf of the establishment, Harrows Chicken Pies. The Board requested clarification on current procedures and volume of waste produced/renewed. Madam Chair Leanne Jasset reviewed local grease trap regulations. Jillian requested quarterly cleaning of the grease trap. Vice Chairwoman Mary Ellard motioned to approve the variance request conditional upon quarterly grease trap cleaning. The Motion was seconded by Member Noreen Guilfoyle, the Board

voted unanimously to approve the motion. Health Director Sullivan will follow up with variance approval letter to the establishment.

Hearing for 18 Powers St/ Irrigation Well Variance Request: Health Director Kylee Sullivan informed the Board of a variance request regarding an irrigation well at 18 Powers St. Current regulations state that “No application for a private well shall be approved if public water supplies are available within 400 feet of the proposed structure to be served.” The property owner, Jerry Romano, requested a variance for the installation of an irrigation well for his vegetable garden. Health Director Kylee Sullivan recommended approval of the variance to install an irrigation well. The Board voted unanimously to approve the request for variance contingent on the successful submission and compliance with an approved well application. Health Director Kylee Sullivan will follow up with a letter to Jerry Romano of 18 Powers St informing him of approval for his variance request.

Director’s Report

DWWD TTHM Exceedance: Health Director Kylee Sullivan informed the Board of an exceedance of Total Trihalomethanes/TTHM observed upon routine testing of Dedham/Westwood Water supply. It was reported that this is not an emergency, and an alternative source of water is not required at this time. The Health Director stated that the Dedham/Westwood Water District (DWWD) flushed and diluted the water supply to mitigate this exceedance and decrease TTHM levels. Next routine testing will be performed in January 2022. Measures have been taken to notify Dedham residents. Dedham residents have also been provided with additional information on how to reach DWWD’s Informational Hotline, as well as an email address to ensure effective communication with the public.

Senior COVID-19 Booster Clinic: A COVID-19 Booster vaccination clinic has been scheduled for Thursday, November 18, 2021 at the American Legion. At the time of the Board of Health meeting, 88 patients have scheduled appointments.

Pediatric COVID19 Booster Clinic: A pediatric clinic will be held on Saturday, November 20, 2021 at the Dedham Middle School for ages 5-11 years old. Information has been sent out to the public and approximately 200 children have been registered for this clinic at this time.

295 Walnut St: 295 Walnut St has submitted a domestic animal application. Health Director Kylee Sullivan reported she has completed a site visit on November 4, 2021 to inspect the chickens and coop at its current location and has determined that the current location is not in compliance with the Keeping of Domestic Animals Regulations. Residents of 295 Walnut St. have been provided information on requesting a variance should they intend to keep their chicken coop in the current location. Owners and neighbors have been notified of the property’s intent to keep chickens via certified mail. Vice Chairwoman, Mary Ellard voiced concerns on the current coop location as it relates to the Regulations. Madam Chair Leanne Jasset inquired if the property allows for other locations for coop to be placed. Madam Chair asked the Health Director to follow up with property owner about next steps with the application process.

Rodent Activity: The Health Director attended a Precinct 3 meeting on Thursday, November 4, 2021 as Vice Chair Mary Ellard was alerted of rodent activity in the precinct. The Health Director discussed rodent activity and rodent behaviors, as well as explained that the Health Department can conduct assessments of properties upon request and provide residents with educational handouts on rodent activity. The Health Director encouraged attendees to call the Health Department with any questions or

to schedule a rodent inspection of their property. As of the start of the Board of Health meeting, no calls have been received to request inspections. The Health Director and Public Information Officer, Amanda Smith, are working to provide materials and target strategies to educate residents about rodent prevention.

Inspections: The Health Director requested a Line-item for a Per Diem Health Inspector to assist in annual inspections. This will be presented to Town Meeting next week.

Updated COVID19 Statistics/COVID19 Discussion

As of November 9, 2021 there have been 2,842 confirmed cases of COVID-19 since start of pandemic, 240 probable cases (positive antigen tests), and 95 deaths in Dedham attributed to COVID-19.

Public Comment

Dedham Resident Brian Keaney presented questions regarding current mask mandates and requested clarification on current standards surrounding mask mandate criteria. Health Director Kylee Sullivan reviewed and compared current COVID-19 data to August 2021 data, when the Dedham municipal building mask requirement was implemented. A discussion ensued about what factors would be considered in revisiting the municipal building mask requirement. The Health Director and Board will continue to monitor cases in the Town and will continue to inform the public as new information develops.

Chairwoman Leanne Jasset made a motion to adjourn. Member Guilfoyle Seconded. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 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 November 9, 2021, which minutes were approved on December 14, 2021.

Leanne Jasset – Chairman