

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 January 25, 2022

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted via remote means. Members of the public who wish to access the meeting may do so by using the Zoom link or phone number via computer or mobile device as posted on the meeting agenda that can be found on the Town website calendar. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, for reasons of economic hardship and despite best efforts, we will post on the Town of Dedham website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

#### **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  
Mavis Stephany Lopez Silva, Administrative Assistant

#### **The following applicants were present during remote meeting:**

Austin Schuette, 295 Walnut Street  
Rebecca Schuette, 295 Walnut Street  
Ken Rogers, Small Batch Café

Chairwoman Jasset called the meeting to order at 5:30PM on January 25, 2022.

#### **Discussion and Vote of December 14, 2021, Meeting Minutes**

Vice Chair Mary Ellard moved to approve meeting minutes of December 14, 2021 as presented. Member Noreen Guilfoyle seconded the motion. The Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Health meeting on December 14, 2021.

#### **Continuation of Public Hearing: Domestic Animals Regulations Variance Request-295 Walnut Street**

Health Director Kylee Sullivan read an email that was submitted by applicant Austin Schuette. The email read as follows:

"After listening to our objecting abutter at the first meeting the largest concern appeared to be the view of our yard from her den 100+ feet away from the property line.

I think that lowering the chicken run to the 6' 6" allowable height for a fence would enable her to choose her own manner of obfuscating the chicken structures on our property without requiring any town intervention or variances.

Please pass along that the BOH is invited to drop into our yard at their leisure up to the date of the meeting and that we would look forward to finding mutually agreeable common ground with our neighbor in this matter.

I guess one way to think of this is that we are open to requirements for the chicken structure should we be granted a variance (height, size). Should we not be granted a variance we will reduce to 3 chickens and return the existing structure to the original location. So from one perspective the request is about the number of chickens we are able to have and the town having input into our chicken structures as the cost of having more than 3 chickens.”

Mr. Schuette reviewed his variance request and informed the Board of his desire to find a mutually agreeable solution with his neighbors or reduce the unit to three chickens. Reduction in chickens would not necessitate a permit from the Town. Vice Chair Mary Ellard clarified the location of the coop should the variance be denied. Member Noreen Guilfoyle discussed the current location of the coop and run and its compliance status. Vice Chair Mary Ellard requested the applicant provide more information about the old run structure on the side of the property. Director Sullivan reported that while there is an unenclosed structure on the property, the chickens are free range. Mr. Schuette stated that the chickens are indeed free range, the structure is unenclosed in his yard and not part of the housing of the chickens. Considering all the information and reports given by Mr. and Mrs. Schuette as well as current Town of Dedham Keeping of Domestic Animals Regulations, Member Noreen Guilfoyle made a motion to deny the variance request as the strict enforcement of the Regulations does not cause manifest injustice regarding the location of chicken facilities complying with the 30-foot set back requirement. Vice Chair Ellard seconded the motion. The Board unanimously voted to deny the variance request. Director Sullivan will send a follow up email to inform the applicants about the variance request denial.

#### **Discussion and Vote: Small Batch Café Maintenance of Grease Trap Variance Request**

Small Batch Café submitted a variance request for the requirement of monthly internal grease trap cleaning outlined in Dedham’s Rules and Regulations for the Maintenance of Grease Traps. The establishment provided a letter from their grease hauler, which outlines their currently implemented quarterly plan. The establishment would like to keep this plan as they have not had any issues with grease. Small Batch Café representative Ken Rogers outlined the variance request. Vice Chair Mary Ellard requested clarification on Small Batch Café’s menu. Mr. Rogers reviewed the menu and explained that a monthly grease trap cleaning would be very expensive to their business and is hopeful the variance will be approved. Vice Chair Ellard made a motion to approve the variance request contingent upon quarterly grease trap cleaning and revisiting the variance should an issue arise. Member Noreen Guilfoyle seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the variance request with the contingencies specified. Health Director Sullivan will send a follow up email to establishment owner to inform him of the variance request approval.

#### **Director’s Report and General Updates**

Director Sullivan updated the Board about the Town’s new COVID-19 website, [www.dedham-ma.gov/covid19](http://www.dedham-ma.gov/covid19). This is a centralized location for all information and resources pertaining to COVID-19 in Dedham.

On January 19, 2021, the federal government began distributing four (4) free at home COVID-19 tests. The Town has also purchased a limited supply of at-home tests to distribute to residents disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. The Town is partnering with community organizations including the Dedham Housing Authority, the Council on Aging, and the Veterans Office. Each organization will contact eligible residents directly and coordinate the delivery of one at-home test kit for each resident.

A decline in COVID-19 case numbers have been reported from school and residents.

There are 4,699 confirmed COVID-19 cases since beginning of the pandemic, and 557 probable positive antigen cases. These numbers do not include positive at-home COVID-19 tests. There have been 102 deaths related to COVID-19 in Dedham.

Chairwoman Leanne Jasset would like to remind all members to be kind and considerate to all.

Noreen Guilfoyle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chair Mary Ellard seconded the motion. The Board unanimously voted to adjourn meeting at 6:13PM on Tuesday, January 25, 2022.

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 January 25, 2022, which minutes were approved on February 22, 2022.

Leanne Jasset – Chairman