

JOHANNA RAVENHURST, Chair
TONY JUDGE, Vice-Chair
KAREN WALSH PIO, LICSW, LADC 1, Clerk
JESSICA COLLINS
CHRISTINE MCKIERNAN, MD

SHARON D. HART, Public Health Director

Board of Health Minutes

March 1, 2022

As Approved April 6, 2022

Present: Johanna Ravenhurst, Chair; Tony Judge, Vice Chair; Karen Walsh Pio, Clerk; Jessica Collins, Board of Health Member; Dr. Christine McKiernan, Board of Health Member; Sharon Hart, Public Health Director; Jennifer Jernigan, Assistant Public Health Director; Monasia Ceasar, Health Compliance Specialist

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Chair Ravenhurst.

1. Acceptance of the Minutes of the January 25, 2022 Meeting:

Chair Ravenhurst introduced the minutes from the 01/25/22 meeting and questioned if there were any revisions to be made. No changes were brought forth. Chair Ravenhurst mentioned she would accept a motion to approve the minutes from the 01/25/22 meeting. Dr. McKiernan made the motion and Walsh Pio seconded it. A rollcall was taken.

Tony Judge: Aye
Dr. Christine McKiernan: Aye
Karen Walsh Pio: Aye
Jessica Collins: Aye
Johanna Ravenhurst: Aye

2. Announcements and Open Forum:

Chair Ravenhurst introduced announcements and open forum as the next topic of discussion. Director Hart shared the memos left in the open forum. The memos shared were regarding the mask mandate. Chair Ravenhurst then provided attendees present at the meeting the opportunity to bring forth any announcements to the Board. Interested attendees shared their announcements to the Board. Collins questioned if the Board of Health issued mask mandate had purview over the schools. Director Hart clarified that the mask mandate addressed all public buildings in the town of South Hadley, including schools.

3. New Business:

(A) COVID-19 Update

Chair Ravenhurst introduced Director Hart to provide the COVID-19 update. Director Hart shared there were 21 active cases for the week, with some from the week before as overlap. There were 17 new confirmed cases for the week. Director Hart was notified by Holyoke Medical Center of two discharges originally from South Hadley going into healthcare facilities and one discharge returning to their home residence. Director Hart noted that deaths reported will now be deciphered as with COVID or from COVID. There has been a decrease in numbers in the Town wastewater readings as well.

In conjunction with Mary Walsh, Director Hart is coordinating another vaccine clinic for the community. The clinic has been scheduled for March 10, 2022, from 2pm-5pm. Both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, with the possibility of Jansen will be offered to all eligible residents. The Health Department received information from the State Department of Public Health regarding a funeral assistance program for COVID related deaths (with up to 9,000 dollars in assistance available). This information was shared with local funeral directors. Another resource flyer was created and shared with local businesses containing information and resources for employees, including testing sites, vaccine locations, and available relief funds. The flyer was sent to the chamber of commerce.

(B) Mask Mandate- discussion of COVID-19 metrics and mask mandate

Chair Ravenhurst introduced the mask mandate and analyzing the COVID metrics as the next topic of discussion. Similar metrics were previously reviewed at the last meeting. Dr. McKiernan utilized the MA DPH COVID-19 Interactive Data Dashboard to present the latest COVID metrics. Chair Ravenhurst mentioned she would accept a motion to rescind the mask mandate on March 5, 2022. Dr. McKiernan made the motion and Collins seconded it. A rollcall was taken.

Dr. Christine McKiernan: Aye

Tony Judge: Aye

Jessica Collins: Aye

Karen Walsh Pio: Aye

Johanna Ravenhurst: Aye

Chair Ravenhurst confirmed that the mask mandate will be lifted as of March 5, 2022. In support of the mask advisory issued by the DPH, the Board of Health will issue an advisory with the same recommendations. Director Hart confirmed that the advisory will be placed on the Town website with the corresponding link, as that information changes regularly.

(C) Peabody Plant- discussion of response from Peabody Health & Human Services Director next steps

Chair Ravenhurst introduced the Peabody Plant as the next topic to be discussed. Ravenhurst referenced the response received from the Director of Health and Human Services to provide an update to the Board members per previous request. In summary she noted that the discussion will be tabled with the possibility of being reviewed at a future meeting if additional information becomes available.

(d) Update- Indoor Air Quality, HVAC, Moisture Mitigation planning at South Hadley High School

Chair Ravenhurst introduced a brief update regarding the indoor air quality at the South Hadley High School as the next topic of discussion. She shared that the Superintendent and School Committee have been working on this matter. Engineers have been hired to draft an in-depth report with clear recommendations on updates that should be made to mitigate the moisture at the High School. Director Hart confirmed that a request for 30,000 dollars had been made to allocate funding for the cost. Chair Ravenhurst summarized that the matter is being taken seriously and strides are being made to address the problem.

(e) Update- South Hadley Drug & Alcohol Prevention Coalition (Karen)

Chair Ravenhurst introduced an update regarding the South Hadley Drug & Alcohol Prevention Coalition as the next topic of discussion. Walsh Pio shared that a request had been made for metal signs designating smoke free areas by Susan Cook. The signs can only be acquired by the Board of Health. An order was placed for the signs and will arrive the week of the March 7, 2022.

The coalition also raised accessibility of Narcan as an area of interest. Narcan has an expiration date and must be replaced accordingly. Director Hart noted that as members of a coalition for substance abuse, she has access to Narcan and Narcan boxes. Often, nurses call to request to update their Narcan supply. Walsh Pio agreed to inform the coalition of this to acquire Narcan as desired.

(f) Mosquito spraying opt-out process and February 10th public listening session of the mosquito task force

Chair Ravenhurst shared she has been researching information on the mosquito spraying opt-out process after unexpectedly becoming aware of the option last year. The mosquito task force put

together a set of recommendations related to the opt-out process. These recommendations were reviewed at the listening session. There are still no clear deadlines and guidelines for the upcoming year if the town of South Hadley was interested in opting out. Chair Ravenhurst agreed to draft up a summary to be posted on the website with the corresponding letters and available documents as reference.

(g) Update- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza update from MDAR (Sharon)

Director Hart shared a state issued advisory was sent out regarding a highly pathogenic Avian Influenza being detected in wild migratory birds. The received information was sent out to all the animal keeping licensee holders. The state has determined they will not be conducting any testing on birds.

(h) Emergency Order to Vacate- 47 Spring Street- Basement- Ratify

Jernigan identified unsanitary living conditions in the basement dwelling area of the property, that led to the condemnation of the space. It was brought to the Department's attention by the Police and Fire Department. As follow up, an inspection was conducted, and an order was issued. The property owner is moving forward with clean up.

Chair Ravenhurst shared she would accept a motion to ratify the emergency order to vacate the basement unit at 47 Spring Street. Walsh Pio made the order and Dr. McKiernan seconded it. A roll call was taken.

Tony Judge: Aye
Jessica Collins: Aye
Dr. Christine McKiernan: Aye
Karen Walsh Pio: Aye
Johanna Ravenhurst: Aye

4. Set Next Meeting Date- (TBD) at 6:00 p.m. Virtual using Zoom

Director Hart noted that the website indicates the second Tuesday of every month for Board of Health meetings. It has been brought to the Department's attention that the community finds this misleading as this has not always been the case. Hart suggested changing the website to include that the meetings may vary if decided by the Board. Hart advised the Board that the meeting schedule should be consistent. It was noted that the second Tuesday of next month falls on election day. The virtual meeting was set for Tuesday April 5th, 2022, at 6p.m.

Judge raised his concerns about the application of road salt, conventional salt, minerals, and other chemicals to the roads and the impact they have on the water supply. He raised the possibility of providing an update or overview on this matter at a future meeting. Hart agreed to follow up with DPW on this.

5. Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully,

Monasia Ceasar

ATTACHMENT A

RECORD LOCATION

DPH Mask Advisory	BOH File
Mask Complaint Email	BOH File
MA DPH Metrics	BOH File
COVID-19 Vaccine Data	BOH File
Wastewater COVID-19 Data	BOH File
Peabody Plant Email	BOH File
Mosquito Spraying Opt-out Process Letter	BOH File
MDAR Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Update	BOH File