

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

SHARON D. HART, Public Health Director

Board of Health Minutes

July 12, 2022

As Approved – September 13, 2022

Present: Tony Judge, Chair; Dr. Christine McKiernan, Vice Chair, Karen Walsh Pio, Clerk; Jessica Collins, Board of Health Member; Stephen Frantz, 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 6:02 p.m. by Chair Judge.

1. Acceptance of the Minutes of the June 14, 2022, Meeting:

Chair Judge introduced the minutes from the 06/14/22 meeting and questioned if there were any comments or changes to be made. Board members shared revisions that needed to be made. Chair Judge mentioned he would accept a motion to approve the minutes with the proposed changes. Collins made a motion and Walsh Pio seconded it. A rollcall was taken, and all were in favor.

2. Announcements and Open Forum:

Chair Judge verified there were no comments to be brought forth from the open forum.

3. New Business:

(A) COVID-19 Update

Chair Judge introduced the COVID-19 update as the next topic of discussion. Director Hart shared an update on COVID-19 and monkeypox. COVID-19 continues to show an overall decreasing trend in case numbers and Biobot data. The state has released updated information regarding monkeypox, including the availability of vaccine.

Discussion of PFAS pursued: Chair Judge proposed the possibility of adding PFAS as an agenda topic for the next meeting. He highlighted the recent emergence of the topic and suggested Frantz lead the discussion. Frantz agreed to present on the topic and to forward related information so the other Board members can be adequately prepared for the meeting.

(B) Grant- PHE Grant Update

Chair Judge introduced Director Hart to provide an update on the Public Health Excellence Grant. Hart announced she is currently compiling an expense report for the \$625,000 dollars grant money. Four hundred thousand dollars is allocated for services, meanwhile \$225,000 dollars was awarded for COVID related expenses.

**(C) H.926- “An Act Relative to improving pesticide protections for Massachusetts schoolchildren”:
Board of Health Support Letter**

Chair Judge introduced the Pesticide Protection support letter as the next topic of discussion. All Board members agreed with signing onto the letter in support of the initiative. Director Hart agreed to submit the required documents on behalf of the Board Health in addition to forwarding the information to the School Committee and Select Board to gain their participation as well.

(D) Update: South Hadley High School Mold Remediation

Chair Judge introduced the mold remediation at the South Hadley High School as the next topic for consideration. Led by Dr. McKiernan, a discussion pursued regarding the status of the mold remediation and the importance of ensuring that the issues are adequately addressed before the start of the 2022-2023 school year. Director Hart shared an update on the matter from the Business Administrator, Jennifer Voyik. With the approval from the Board members, Dr. McKiernan agreed to send a letter to the School Committee requesting an evaluation be conducted (by DPH or an outside vendor) of the High School to verify the status.

(E) Update: South Hadley Drug & Alcohol Prevention Coalition

Chair Judge introduced the update regarding the Drug and Alcohol Prevention as the next agenda item. Walsh Pio provided an update on the Coalition including the upcoming events and initiatives planned. She also noted that the state is hosting a webinar addressing the emergence of cannabis cafes and home delivery of THC products.

Discussion regarding Nearmap pursued:

Frantz questioned the status of his inquiry regarding gaining access to Nearmap. Director Hart shared she was informed by both Town Administration and the Assessor’s office that access is not granted to Board/ Committee members. Board members expressed their interest in the possibility of Department staff utilizing the software to acquire images related to Board of Health projects. Hart agreed to follow up with Town Administration regarding software restrictions and policy use.

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

Chair Judge introduced setting the next meeting date as the next topic of discussion. Director Hart confirmed that virtual meetings have been extended until March of 2023. Chair Judge proposed meeting in person at the Senior Center for the September meeting, as he feels as though in person meetings has begun to increase. Collins advised the Board to consider the impact this would have on the Department staff. Director Hart noted that all supplemental documents would have to be transported to the meeting site and time may have to be allotted after the meeting to acquire requested information that was not on hand. A vote was taken. All Board members, excluding Collins who abstained, were in favor of meeting in person. The next meeting was set for September 13th at 6 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Discussion of Emergency Management Plans pursued:

Dr. McKiernan questioned the status of acquiring E-ink's emergency management plans detailing the hazardous waste amounts as requested in the previous meeting from a community member. The documents provided by the community member outlined the Board of Health's purview to the manner. Director Hart noted she will have to verify the Board's jurisdiction, as this topic typically falls under Emergency Management. She also highlighted that certain aspects of the emergency plans may be private and unable to be shared with the public.

Discussion of E360 Link on Website pursued:

Dr. McKiernan followed up on the request to the Department to edit the E360 information listed on the website. Director Hart confirmed that a regulation section was added to the left margin of topics on the Public Health page that leads you to the main page of the E360 regulation listing. Dr. McKiernan noted the addition but mentioned there was still a link at the bottom of the page that listed only the tobacco regulation. Jernigan agreed to revise this.

5. Adjourn the meeting:

Chair Judge mentioned he would accept a motion to adjourn the meeting. All members were in consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully,

Monasia Ceasar

ATTACHMENT A

RECORD LOCATION

Pesticide Protection Support Request	BOH File
Pesticide Protection Letter w/ Signatures	BOH File
Cannabis Cafes & Home Delivery	BOH File