



**TOWN OF WESTMINSTER**  
**11 South Street**  
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**BOARD OF HEALTH**

Minutes for February 2, 2022  
Board of Health Meeting, Room 205, 4:30 p.m.

**Board of Health members present:** Board of Health members Dr. Michael Popik, Chairman; Mr. Ed Simoncini, Ms. Ann Loree, Health Agent, Elizabeth Penney, Administrative Assistant

**Also present:** Kara LeBlanc, Jessica Merchant, Karen Moore, Linda Landry, Mike Ferris, David Crowley, Wachusett Mountain via phone.

Dr. Popik called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m. Meeting minutes for 8/18, 9/1, 10/20, 11/3, 11/17, 1/5 signed.

**Old Business:**

**Review Open Meeting Law complaint filed by Jeffery Aveni, Esq. and discuss response to complaint –**

Board members have completed the Open Meeting Law training course and the Board of Health staff will be taking the course on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Popik made a motion to approve the response of K.P. Law to the Open Meeting Law complaint. Seconded by Mr. Simoncini. Motion passed.

**Flu Vaccine Discussion -** Ms. Loree reviewed the flu vaccine order and amount of leftover vaccine from 2021 and made recommendation for the 2022 order. Board members recommend reducing the 2022 order from 180 doses to 160 doses.

**New Business:**

**Vax Bus for Wachusett Mountain -** Ms. Loree provided a summary of the COVID cases of Wachusett Mountain staff noting the location has been a hot spot for cases over the last month. Ms. Loree explained that Victoria Selser, Epidemiologist with the Montachusett Public Health Network is working with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to arrange for a mobile Vaccine Clinic known as the Vax Bus to set up at Wachusett Mountain for staff and any one from the public to have access on a voluntary basis to the COVID vaccine. Mr. David Crowley explained that Wachusett Mountain would like to assist the Department of Public Health and provide the opportunity to his staff. The date will be determined based on availability of the buses. Board members made a determination to support the Vax Bus program to be held at Wachusett Mountain.

**2021 Annual Report for Approval –** Board members reviewed changes and corrections under section including Vehicle Monitor, Hazardous Waste Collection Days, Waste Management Site Assignment.

**Discussion – Mask Vaccine Concerns – Linda Landry -** Ms. Landry summarized her concerns regarding mask mandates in various communities within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and addressed the Board of Health regarding legality of mandates. Dr. Popik noted that the Board of Health issued a Mask Advisory only and has no plans to institute any mandates in the town. In the summer of 2021, the Board had discussed having a more in depth discussion regarding mask studies for a future Board meeting. Dr. Popik noted the discussion was deemed as unnecessary due to issues being mitigated in the fall. Ms. Landry noted that the most recent meeting minutes are not on the website. Ms. Penney noted updates to the Board of Health website are in progress. Ms. Landry thanked the Board members for the opportunity to address her concerns.


**Public Comments -** Mr. Michael Ferris inquired about the Board of Health plans to update the permitting system. Ms. Loree reviewed the status of software updates for food inspections and future plans to upgrade software for septic and wells.

**Board Concerns -** Mr. Simoncini reviewed the Open Meeting Law training including procedures for posting agenda items and meeting minutes stating guideline of thirty days or three meetings for approval of minutes.

**Health Agents Update:**

Ms. Loree noted the Montachusett Public Health Epidemiology team is up and running. The team is working on COVID cluster follow-ups and will be providing data for the MPH service area.

Dr. Popik made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Simoncini. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.



Dr. Michael Popik



Edward Simoncini

**Attachments:**

Response letter for Open Meeting Law complaint

Correspondence from Mark and Linda Landry

Annual Report draft