



TOWN OF WESTMINSTER
11 South Street
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01473
(978) 874-7409 • Fax (978) 874-7462
BOARD OF HEALTH

Meeting Minutes for February 3, 2021
Board of Health Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
Held by conference call.

In Attendance: Board of Health members Dr. Michael Popik, Chairman; Mr. Chris Redkey, Mr. Ed Simoncini, Ms. Ann Loree, Health Agent, Elizabeth Penney, Administrative Assistant.

Dr. Popik called meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

Vouchers: Mileage vouchers for Ms. Loree and Ms. Conlin signed. Ms. Loree will get clarification on Montachusett Public Health Network line item prior to Board members signing the voucher.

Meeting Minutes: Mr. Simoncini requested correction to the minutes from November 18, December 2 and December 16. Liz will make corrections and send to the Board for review and approval at upcoming meeting.

New Business: No new business.

Old Business:

COVID Clinics Update – Ms. Loree said the Commonwealth of Massachusetts announced the move to Phase Two, Group One vaccination eligibility for individuals age 75 and older. Eligible individuals can register on Mass.gov website and view interactive map of clinics. Heywood Hospital is coordinating regional clinic to be held at the Polish American Citizens Club (P.A.C.C.) in Gardner. Ms. Loree reviewed the regional clinic schedule, and online registration process outlined on the Heywood Hospital website. Ms. Loree said the Gardner Emergency Operations Center will operate a call center beginning the week of February 8th. The Town of Westminister website will be updated with information from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Heywood Hospital pertaining to the vaccine phases chart, eligibility, online registration, and call center information.

Port-a-Pottie Permit Update – Board members reviewed and discussed the Port-a-Pottie regulations outlined in Chapter 243. Dr. Popik will draft new regulations to be reviewed at upcoming Board meeting. Ms. Loree contacted the two companies that have placed Port-a-Potties on the Livermore Hill area and informed the companies of the need to get a permit and that details are coming.

Town Farm Road Water Well Progress/Hydrogeologist Research – Ms. Loree said the water sampling is complete and The Department of Public Works has concluded the water quality issue is in the aquifer. The Board discussed the approval of funding for a water main at the Special Town Meeting Warrant held on February 2nd.

Ms. Loree said Hydrogeologist Dave Harwood of Geo Insight will provide an Request for Proposal (RFP) to include a small scope of work and a large scope of work for the Town Farm Road project.



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Ms. Loree will draft a letter of request to be included at the June Town meeting for funding a Hydrogeologist if the request goes to Town Meeting.

Board Concerns:

COVID Cases Tracking Update - Ms. Loree informed the Board of changes with the Montachusett Public Health Network (MPHN) staff and potential changes with administrative support. Ms. Loree said she will need to get trained on Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiological Network (MAVEN). Board members would like clarification from MPHN leadership on any reduction of services and the specific services the town is paying for under the annual contract.

Town Hall Closure Status - Dr. Popik will be contact Mr. Mark Hawke, Town Administrator for clarification on closure of Town Hall to the public and to request the Board of Health be given permission to meet in person.

Dump Odor Issue – Board members reviewed and Ms. Loree addressed recent complaints regarding dump odors.

115 East Road Rubbish Issue – The property owner is communicating with Ms. Loree and has disposed of the majority of rubbish. In addition to the dump sticker, the property owner is working on getting a commercial sticker to dispose of various wood items and plans to finish dumping all items once the ice around the trailer thaws.

Health Agent Update:

COVID Cases – Ms. Loree said there are thirty six cases in the town. Cases continue on a downward trend.

Wachusett Mountain - A complaint was received regarding individuals not wearing masks at Wachusett Mountain. Ms. Loree informed David Crowley of the complaint and reviewed the mask requirements. Ms. Loree will also do a site visit.

Recovery Centers of America COVID cases – Ms. Loree will send an email reminder to Dr. Heidi Ginter, Chief Medical Officer, for an update on COVID cases.

124 Knower Road – Ms. Loree said updated house plans and septic plans have been received.

178 North Common Road – Ms. Loree said the septic plan has been approved. Ms. Loree is waiting to hear back on installation.

96 Town Farm Road – An issue was found with the well head during water testing. Ms. Loree will send a letter to the homeowners regarding the issue.



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Wachusett Medical Reserve Corps – The Board approved a request from Ms. Loree to include a link to the WMRC website and a statement regarding recruitment of volunteers.

Motion made by Dr. Popik to adjourn. Mr. Redkey seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Dr. Michael Popik

H. Christopher Redkey

Edward Simoncini

Attachments:

Chapter 243 - Portable Bathrooms Regulations
Odor Complaint Response Report