



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

Minutes for January 20, 2021
Board of Health Meeting, Room 205, 4:30 P.M.

In Attendance: Board of Health members Dr. Michael Popik, Chairman; Mr. Chris Redkey, Mr. Ed Simoncini, Ms. Ann Loree, Health Agent; Ms. Elizabeth Penney, Administrative Assistant
Guests: Amanda Barry, Recovery Centers of America; Richard McAuliffe, Recovery Centers of America; Heidi Ginter, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Recovery Centers of America; Chief Kyle Butterfield, Westminster Fire Department; Adam Bean, Westminster Fire Department

Dr. Popik called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

Voucher for ServSafe class for Abby Conlin approved and signed.

New Business:

Recovery Centers of America (RCA) –

Ms. Loree provided overview of COVID cases and complaints. Three complaints received by Board of Health office: one former patient and two staff members observed staff and patients not following COVID safety protocol.

A conference call meeting was held with staff on January 19 to discuss complaints. Ms. Loree noted there were issues with interpretation between the CDC regulations and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts regulations. Staff was made aware that going forward to default to Commonwealth of Massachusetts regulations. Ms. Loree said the meeting went well and the staff was implementing an action plan.

Dr. Heidi Ginter, MD, Chief Medical Officer addressed the Board regarding the current COVID outbreak. Dr. Ginter explained COVID testing process for new admissions and said there was an issue with lab results taking an extended period of time to receive. Dr. Ginter reviewed process for quarantining patients in separate rooms. Dr. Ginter said that as of January 20, all patients and staff will be tested, which will take 48 hours to test everyone.

Dr. Ginter addressed the complaint received from a patient who tested positive and reviewed the protocol pertaining to the patient's discharge. Dr. Ginter reviewed the mask protocol.

The Board addressed Dr. Ginter regarding adhering to limiting group size. Mr. Richard McAuliffe, Facilities Manager reviewed the cleaning protocol and air filtration system. Ms. Loree noted the ability to expand to isolate and quarantine was addressed in spring 2020. Ms. Loree requested the Human Resources Department be notified that anything pertaining to COVID protocol to default to Commonwealth of Massachusetts regulations.



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Dr. Popik instructed Dr. Ginter to have a clear plan moving forward. Dr. Ginter will provide written weekly updates to Ms. Loree and list of contacts that Ms. Loree will provide.

Discussion – COVID Vaccine Clinics –

Ms. Loree provided outline of proposed vaccine clinic that would be scheduled for four weeks in late February through March. Ms. Loree presented opportunities and challenges with scheduling vaccine clinic in town. Ms. Loree reviewed how the First Responder clinics held in the region are organized. Ms. Loree met with Fire Chief Kyle Butterfield to discuss and draft a proposal. Ms. Loree connected with Judy O'Donnell, Wachusett Medical Reserve Corp. Ms. O'Donnell said WMRC will assist with providing volunteers.

Chief Kyle Butterfield explained challenges with utilizing Fire Department staff for one month. Chief Butterfield is of the opinion that it is not feasible to host a vaccine clinic based on the number of volunteers and staff needed and noted that the First responders' clinics were regionalized. Chief Butterfield suggested pursuing regional clinics as area hospitals have the resources and scheduling software.

Board members reviewed and discussed the proposed vaccine clinic timeline, potential locations, equipment and supplies needed. BOH staff and Board members are receiving vaccine clinic inquiries from the public and at present time are waiting for State Department of Public Health to release information. The consensus was to table discussion until more information from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health is released.

Board of Health Hearing Preparation Policy –

Board members reviewed and made changes to the second draft of the agenda policy. Ms. Loree will finalize and our office will send out to the list of engineering firms on file.

Old Business:

Port-a-Pottie Permit Update-

Ms. Loree and Ms. Penney are researching and looking for documentation in the files pertaining to Port-a-Pottie permit regulations.



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Town Farm Road Well Water Progress/Hydrogeologist Research –

Ms. Loree said additional houses are included in the water sampling. Letters have been sent to 84, 86, 88, and 90 Town Farm Road. Letters were resent to 103, 106 and 108 Town Farm Road. Two residents have responded and requested water samples be taken.

Board Concerns:

A complaint was received concerning a customer at Wachusett Mountain not wearing a mask. Ms. Loree reminded Wachusett Mountain of the regulations as she is up there weekly and has not seen this violation.

A complaint was received regarding an employee at Vincent's not wearing a mask. Ms. Loree witnessed the violation earlier. Ms. Loree will send a written warning noting the next step is to fine.

Ms. Loree informed Board members that Town Hall is currently closed to the public due to one custodian on duty.

Health Agents Update:

COVID Clusters - Ms. Loree said there are no COVID clusters in the schools.

115 East Road – Ms. Loree reviewed status of request for property owner to clean up the property in two weeks. If the owner does not comply, Ms. Loree will send letter outlining next steps, including a fine and subject to tax lien.

Landfill - An odor complaint for the landfill was received. The odor has been contained.

9 Overlook Road Agenda Item & Correspondence to Mr. Donald Gribbons - Staff will send Mr. Gribbons a letter summarizing the Board of Health vote with a copy of the approved minutes from January 6, 2021 attached.

Staff Update – Ms. Loree said the new staff members Abby Conlin, Assistant Health Agent and Liz Penney, Administrative Assistant are getting acclimated and trained. Ms. Conlin is working on ServSafe training and certifications.

Emergency Drill - Board members have been sent an email to complete Emergency Drill.

Dr. Popik informed Ms. Loree that he will need MHOA membership. Ms. Loree will send Dr. Popik the email.



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Dr. Popik made motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Simoncini. Adjourn at 6:34 pm.

Dr. Michael Popik

H. Christopher Redkey

Edward Simoncini

Attachments:

COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Planning 2021 Westminster Board of Health
Board of Health Agenda Policy