

WHITMAN BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 24th, 2022

Members present: Danielle Clancy – Chair
Dawn Varley – Vice Chair
Jamie Rhynd - Clerk

Staff present: Dan Kelly – Health Inspector/Dept. Head
Dina Amado – Administrative Assistant

Others present: Tim Clancy – Fire Chief

Danielle Clancy called the meeting to order at 9:31 A.M.

Danielle Clancy read the following:

Welcome everyone to the meeting, this meeting is following open meeting laws and is open to the general public. As the meeting is an in person meeting it is therefore not being recorded or posted to YouTube. We will be performing an audio only recording for meeting minute's transcription purposes only.

Chair Danielle Clancy introduced and welcomed new board member Jamie Rhynd. Other members and attendees to the meeting welcomed her as well. Roles of each office of the board was discussed.

Chair Danielle Clancy asked for a motion to Re-Organize the BOH. Motion to nominate Danielle Clancy as chair.

Motioned: Dawn V

2nd: Jamie R

Vote: 3 –Yes

Motion to nominate Danielle Clancy as Chair passes.

Chair Danielle Clancy asked for a motion to nominate Dawn Varley as Vice-Chair.

Motioned: Danielle C

2nd: Jamie R

Vote: 3 –Yes

Motion to nominate Dawn Varley as Vice-Chair passes.

Chair Danielle Clancy asked for a motion to nominate Jamie Rhynd as Clerk.

Motioned: Dawn V

2nd: Danielle C

Vote: 3 –Yes

Motion to nominate Jamie Rhynd as Clerk passes.

Chair Danielle Clancy asked for a motion to appoint the following as written. Appointments Effective July 1, 2022 through June 30th, 2023:

Dan Kelly: Animal Inspector, South Shore Recycling BOH- Rep (BOS final appointment), Health Inspector, Milk Inspector

Barbara White: Asst. Health Inspector

Dawn Varley: Rabies Agent, Burial Agent

Michael Ganshirt: Asst. Burial Agent

Jennifer Devasto: Asst. Burial Agent

Laura Howe: Animal Inspector

Joe Kenney: Animal Inspector

Motioned: Dawn V

2nd: Jamie R

Vote: 3 –Yes

Motion to appoint as listed passes.

Chair Danielle Clancy asked for a motion to approve meeting minutes for 04/26/2022 BOH meeting.

Motioned: Dawn V

2nd: Danielle C

Vote: 2 –Yes; Jamie Rhynd abstained

Minutes to last meeting Approved.

Dan K discussed his report and also explained the South Shore Recycling collection day for Whitman has been scheduled for September 10th, 2022 at the Abington DPW. He explained what that entailed and the estimated costs associated. Discussed what materials are accepted at the collection day as well. Mentioned DPH advisory on Monkeypox. Also mentioned the Whitman day and Rabies Clinic upcoming events. The board discussed current Monkeypox DPH advisory information and 3 cases in MA. Discussed difficulty to actually contract not a pressing concern at this time. Mentioned the smoking bar ban found in the Board of Health regulations passed in 2016. Board discussed sending a letter to the applicant of a smoking bar in town. Consensus was to mail certified letter with the BOH regulation from 2016 that does not allow for his application. Question was asked about formula shortage as well. Discussed ongoing health concerns being found in children where parents have been forced to water down formula to stretch supplies. Board discussed two plane shipments the government is working on but not sure of where the supply will be distributed. Dan K stated the state has not provided any updated information as to the status of the shortage but he will let the board know if any new information is given regarding formula shortage or Monkeypox.

Chair Danielle Clancy asked for a motion to send the certified letter and documentation to the applicant Mr. Asim Iftikhar owner of Leaf & Legend, notifying him that his application for a “smoking bar” cannot be approved based on the 2016 Board of Health regulation banning such establishments in the Town of Whitman. The letter to include that the BOH now considers the matter closed.

Motioned: Dawn V

2nd: Jamie R

Vote: 3 –Yes; BOH member Jamie Rhynd was present at the previous meeting so did not need to abstain.

Motion to mail certified letter and subsequent documentation passes.

BOH Discussed: A copy of the letter and documentation to be provided to the police department for their records. Board discussed the sharps collection day and the resounding success of the event. Chair Danielle C stated the event will be an annual event.

Chair Danielle Clancy asked for a motion to accept the Health Inspector’s Report and Read File.

Motioned: Dawn V

2nd: Jamie R

Vote: 3 –Yes

Health Inspector’s Report and Read File accepted.

Chair Danielle Clancy asked for a motion to accept the licenses as issued.

Motioned: Dawn V

2nd: Jamie R

Vote: 3 –Yes

Licenses accepted as issued.

Chair Danielle C moved the meeting on to discuss current business.

Discussion: Discussed the setup of the drive-thru sharps collection event held at the police station also be used for the Rabies Clinic event scheduled for June 24th. Board agreed to use the same setup. Member Dawn V stated there were two tents available if needed. Discussed the Whitman Day event and the table to be setup at one end with Mosquito and Tick prevention information and the other end to include Stroke prevention. Also mentioned additional information such as Suicide prevention literature will also be presented on the Board of Health Table at the event. Dan K to email link to Mass site that has free literature on multiple subjects to Dawn V for her office to utilize for their table as well. Stated she will have coloring books, crayons and bags for kids at the event. The clerk’s office will also be doing dog registrations at the event as well. There will be senior wellness information provided at the event by the fire department in coordination with the clerk’s office senior wellness information that will be provided as well. Board also briefly discussed the new national suicide prevention number 988

that is scheduled to go live sometime in July of 2022. Information to be provided on the website and advertised when the system is live.

Chair Danielle C moved the meeting on to discuss Covid or old business.

Discussion: Board discussed the current positivity rates. Explained the state mentioning that whatever number of positive cases on the maven report should be multiplied by 8 to get a more accurate picture of positive cases due to home testing.

Fire Chief Tim Clancy: Mentioned he has been in discussions with other town leaders with a plan to monitor the Waste Water Management site for a clearer picture of the prevalence of Covid in the Whitman Community. The information on that site is based on the Covid testing and studies being conducted at the Waste Water treatment facilities. There are also plans to directly monitor hospitalization rates as well.

Board discussed: Whitman is listed in the High Risk category and people can receive their boosters and vaccines at any pharmacy. Vaccine coordinator stated there are plans to do more booster clinics in the future.

Also mentioned that Duval's pharmacy has their own website and people can make appointments for vaccine and booster shots using the Duval's website directly. They don't have to make appointments using the states vax finder site. Discussed some pediatricians are vaccinating five year olds and up. Also discussed the current iHealth home tests expiration dates being extended by the state. Health Agent to get that in writing if possible. The federal government also announced that 8 additional at home tests per household address are being provided through the USPS. Link to be added to the Covid town website page by Vaccine Coordinator. Dan K discussed reaching out to several sources to try and get additional tests. Also discussed the PN5 regional health group and updated information regarding how monies are planning to be spent by the group. Plans to hire a planner as required by the state as well as a regional social worker, food inspection worker and to purchase additional tests have been discussed and voted on by the group. Mr. Kelly explained how the funds are spent is dependent on the 5 health agents each getting 1 vote. While Whitman does not really have a need for a food inspection worker he is only one vote and other towns do have that need. Board discussed a tall grass issue reported. Discussion then moved to a mice issue reported at the Town Hall. Vice Chair Dawn V mentioned a mouse problem witnessed by her in her office in the Town Hall. Health Agent will investigate the concern.

BOH discussed and agreed to hold next meeting on Thursday 06/23/2022 at 9:30 AM in lower level meeting room.

Chair: Danielle Clancy asked for a motion to hold next meeting on 06/23/2022 at 9:30AM in LL Meeting Rm.

Motioned: Dawn V

2nd: Jamie R

Vote: 3 –Yes

Meeting Scheduled.

Chair Danielle Clancy asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motioned: Dawn V

2nd: Jamie R

Vote: 3 –Yes

Meeting Adjourned at 10:17 AM 05/24/2022.

True copy attest: _____
Jamie Rhynd – Clerk BOH

Date: _____

Filed with Clerk's office _____