



**Board of Health
Town of Southwick**
College Highway, Southwick, MA 01077
Phone: (413) 569-1212 Fax (413) 569-5284

MINUTES December 7, 2023

OPENING: The regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Health opened at 6:00 p.m.

Members in attendance:

Sue Brzoska - Chairperson
Mikenzie Cain – Vice-chairperson

Town Staff:

Tom Hibert - Health Director
Meghan Lightcap - Board of Health Administrative Assistant

Members of Public: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

MINUTES

Ms. Cain made a motion to accept the minutes from November 2, 2023 and to include the Nursing Reports. Ms. Brzoska seconded the motion. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor to approve.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES' REPORTS

Refer to the attached November 2023 nursing reports.

DISCUSSION

Fats, Oils & Grease Regulation – Mr. Hibert said that he spoke with Randy Brown, the DPW Director, about these regulations. Mr. Brown was discussed these regulations with the previous Health Director, Mr. FitzGerald. Mr. Brown said he would like to get this implemented with the Town soon. The regulation would force restaurants to clean their grease traps on a regular basis. The Board of Health would be the enforcement agency with some involvement from DPW.

The Grease Trap Inspector would perform inspections only when restaurants did not comply with pumping standards set forth by the Board of Health. That Inspector was hired by the DPW Director in the past according to Mr. Brown. Mr. Hibert said he would like to speak with some other towns to see what their regulations are before moving forward with this and invite Mr. Brown to come to our meeting.

Renewal Applications Update – Mrs. Lightcap reported that she had received and fully processed 1 tanning permit, 3 catering permits, 11 retail food establishment permits, 1 body art establishment permit, 22 food service and 11 tobacco permits.

HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Disposal Septic System:

- 40 Woodside Circle – A repair was made and a COC issued.
- 58 Hastings Road – A repair was made and a final inspection conducted.
- 59 College Highway – A repair was made in sections and a final inspection conducted.
- 110 Summer Avenue – A repair percolation test was performed.
- 173 College Highway – A repair percolation test was performed.
- 5 Pine Knoll - A final inspection was made for a repair and a COC issued.
- 55 Foster Road – A percolation test was done on a new lot.
- 3 Gargon Terrace - A repair percolation test was performed.
- 72 Granville Road - A repair percolation test was performed.
- 12 Silvergrass Lane (Lot 13) - Another percolation test was done on the new lot in a different location than the first.

Housing Inspection:

- 80 Bungalow Street – Mr. Hibert said he would like to go into executive session and read the procedure to enter into an executive session.

Ms. Brzoska made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a mental health issue at 80 Bungalow Street, then to resume the open session. Ms. Cain seconded the motion. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor to approve.

Open session resumed.

Food Service Inspection: Mr. Hibert said there were no inspections conducted. The Inspection Software is up and running. He is waiting for the other towns to send in their paperwork so they can get going as well.

Other:

- WHCPHD Grant - Mr. Hibert said he had an interview set up for the open part-time nursing position.
- Body Art Regulation Clarification – Mr. Hibert said he was approached by the proprietor of a new potential body art establishment inside Salon Sage. There is no plumbed hand sink in the area as specified in the regulations. Therefore, a portable hand sink was proposed. Mr. Hibert said that was not acceptable and a new sink would have to be installed to comply with the regulations.

MEETINGS

- PHE Grant Meeting – is scheduled for Tuesday, December 12th.
- Safety Committee Meeting – Mr. Hibert said he has been given OSHA training for this.
- Unanticipated items 48 hours prior to meeting –

Next Meeting - January 4, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Cain made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 pm. Ms. Brzoska seconded the motion. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Meghan Lightcap
Administrative Assistant Planning Board/Board of Health

Tom Hibert, Health Director

Sue Brzoska, Chairperson

Dr. Terry Putnam, Member

Mikenzie Cain, Vice-Chairperson

Date

Monthly Report Tricia Sedelow PHN

Southwick, Granville and Tolland

December 2023

Southwick –

Food pantry meetings monthly and 4th Wednesday of every month assist with distribution

Assisting pantry move to new location/transporting donations

Monthly blood pressure clinics at Depot Court through the housing authority

Health Advisory Meeting at the Powder Mill School

Interviews for PT Nurse and Shared Service Coordinator

Tolland –

Coffee hour with seniors at the public safety complex twice a month and blood pressure clinic monthly

Each month I create a list of events and activities at Southwick Senior Center to post on the Tolland website

Granville –

Blood pressure clinics held monthly at town hall

Each month I create a list of events and activities at Southwick Senior Center to post in the Country Caller via the Town Administrator

Other (for all towns):

MAVEN cases, DPH webinars, MAPHN Meeting monthly, research health information, up to date articles, NAACHO website/emails, and programs for towns

Shared Services Meeting each month via Zoom

WHO News: The World Health Organization on Tuesday 12/19 announced that it is classifying a new COVID-19 strain – JN.1 – as a standalone variant of interest “due to its rapidly increasing spread.” In the U.S., JN.1 is responsible for an estimated 1 in 5 new coronavirus infections, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The agency expects that JN.1’s prevalence in the U.S. will continue to increase.

Respiratory Illness Dashboard MA DPH - [Respiratory Illness Reporting | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/respiratory-illness-reporting)

www.mass.gov/info-details/respiratory-illness-reporting

December

(no longer including COVID numbers in this list)

Southwick

Lyme – 1

Influenza – 20

Granville

Salmonella – 1 (investigation)

Influenza - 5

Tolland

None

Blandford

Shiga toxin e coli (investigation) – 1

Influenza - 1

Montgomery

Influenza - 2

Russell

Influenza – 8