



Town of Agawam

Board of Health

36 Main Street Agawam, Massachusetts 01001-1837
Tel. 413-786-0400 x 8207 Fax 413 726-9723

Gladys Fernandez-Largay, MD	- Chairman
Mary Jo Safford, NP	- Vice Chair
Mary Lee Bertrand, BSN	- Member
Michael Theroux	- Health Agent
Sherry Petrucci, RN	- Public Health Nurse
Beth Ceccarini	- Secretary

Meeting Minutes - February 10, 2021

REMOTE MEETING VIA ZOOM DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

Attendance : All Board Members present

Documents distributed at meeting :

-Board of Health Agenda

Meeting Called to Order : 5:02 pm by Chairman Fernandez

Chairman Fernandez read to the Board the policy guidelines for running a municipal meeting remotely. These guidelines are from Governor's executive orders due to Corona Virus. Included in these minutes is a copy of this policy.

Approval of minutes : Chairman Fernandez noted that the January BOH meeting had been cancelled so a motion to approve the December 9, 2020 BOH minutes was made by Vice Chair Safford and seconded by Member Bertrand. Motion to approve minutes: 3-0.

Citizen Speak Time : None contacted the Health Department nor joined in the Zoom remote BOH meeting.

Old Business : New agreement for 79 Carr Avenue

Health Agent Michael Theroux told the Board there was a new agreement from the owners of 79 Carr Avenue after their February 5th court hearing. The owners have removed a few big items but according to the new agreement still need to remove a few more cars and clean up the land. The Health Agent will need to drive by periodically to check the progress. The next scheduled hearing for the home owners is March 21, 2021.

Agent Theroux told the Board that the City Council accepted the updated amendments to the tobacco ordinance in December 2020. He also told them that today a copy of the new ordinance and a signature page was sent to each of our tobacco/nicotine delivery retail stores so they are aware of the approved changes to the ordinance. Chairman Fernandez asked about the compliance checks resuming soon. Agent Theroux told her the Pioneer Valley Tobacco Coalition will continue to resume compliance checks on these retail businesses in the future.

New Business :

Chairman Fernandez asked about the new brewery that advertised they were coming to Agawam and opening soon. Agent Theroux told Chairman that Brew Practitioners was actually served a cease and desist order by the town's Inspection Services Department. It was issued for not having all the proper permits in place before demolition began at the 430 Main Street plaza location. He told them that at one point Agent Auer did talk to Brew Practitioners owners but only about different locations for the brewery and not any specific aspects about permitting or opening the actual brewery. Agent Theroux spoke to the Division of Labor Standards Office about Brew Practitioners and found out they had some issues in their Florence, MA location. Brewery's in Massachusetts need to act like restaurants and serve food on-site now. Agent Theroux did reach out to them and told the owners that Agawam was also going to need them to serve food on -site since that is the state regulation. He told them they will also need some sort of kitchen work area needing to make on-site food and be permitted by the Health Department. He did relay to them when they briefly spoke that pre-packaged food is not an option and doesn't follow the regulation. There is, in the future, a meeting scheduled with teams of other Agawam Department Heads to make sure they follow all the guidelines required by Agawam to open up correctly. Unfortunately they have been advertising on social media to say they are close to opening and ready to go but unfortunately that is not the case Agent Theroux said. So far they have not contact the Health Department for any pertinent permits or licenses.

Chairman Fernandez asked the members if they had any more questions or concerns and none did.

Agent Theroux told the Board the Health Department is mostly concentrated on COVID 19 vaccine distribution. The second clinic for first responders was today with the first dose being administered on January 13th. He lauded the Public Health Nurse Sherry and the school nursing staff for the smoothly run clinic. The clinic of first responders included surrounding communities EMT, Police and Fire Departments. He stated that so much work went into the planning and executions of these clinics. He told the Board Sherry is planning on-going clinics each Wednesday at Bethany scheduled until April. His praise went on to say that sherry's vaccine clinic should be the model the State uses as a guideline or benchmark of efficiency.

Vice Chairman Safford also praised Public Health Nurse Sherry for the flawless clinic she was able to participate in today at Bethany Assembly of God. She gave kudos to Sherry for an impressive way she handled the School Nursing staff and the flow of the clinic itself as well as the continuous flow of the first responders getting vaccinated.

Public Health Nurse :

Sherry told the Board she held the second clinic for first responders today and next Wednesday, February 17th will be the first 75+ clinic for Agawam residents, which is part of Phase 2. The original order of vaccine was 400 doses but the State only sent 200 for this clinic. Nurse Sherry also thanked Vice-Chair Safford for her help at the clinic today. She updated them on the clinic for DPW workers and the vaccines she gave to home bound seniors. The second clinic is Phase 2 she was given the full 400 doses she needs which will cover 600 people aged 75+. Nurse Sherry told the Board that she is working in conjunction with the Senior Center and the Park and Rec Departments who are working as a call center to actually register the people. The Police Department will do traffic on clinic days. She also has enlisted the help of the Fire Dept. who help in the waiting room after the vaccine has been administered as well as the School Nurses who actually do the vaccinations. She said it is a real team effort to get everyone on board for each and every clinic.

She then gave the COVID 19 case numbers for the town which are 2,171 in total in Agawam to date. She did say the numbers are coming down in town and vaccine will help in the coming months will lower the cases even more.

In March, there will be a clinic for people aged 65 + with 2 comorbidities. Chairman Fernandez told the Board she is so concerned by what the television is showing in terms of elderly duration of wait time they are having as well as technology issues with cell phones and computers needing to register for a clinic.

School Nurse Activities : Agent Theroux stated that one of our school nurses will not come back from maternity leave and had resigned. We now have 2 full time positions opened for the schools. One of the positions is a Full Time School Nurse and the second position is for a Full Time School Nurse Floater. He stated the nurses have been great working in the clinics with Sherry and with the Medical Wait Room Attendants required in each school building.

Adjourned: Motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chairman Safford seconded by Member Bertrand. With a vote of 3-0 meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.

BOH/bc