

Town of Wellesley  
Board of Health Meeting (online remote)  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday August 2, 2022, 9:00 AM

**Present**

**Board:**

Shepard Cohen, MPA, Chair  
Marcia Testa Simonson, MPH, PhD, Vice Chair  
Linda Oliver Grape, PA-C, MPH, Secretary  
Carol Hannenberg, MD, Associate Member

**Staff:**

Cheryl Lefman, MA, Community Health Coordinator  
Jhana Wallace, Community Health Coordinator  
Vivian Zeng, Senior Environmental Health Specialist  
Deadra Doku-Gardner, MS, Administrator  
Lenny Izzo, Health Department Director  
Ann Marie McCauley, RN, Public Health Nursing Supervisor  
Wanda Alvarez, Community Social Worker  
Joyce Saret, MSW, Senior Community Social Worker  
Emily Whittaker Smith, Intern  
Ashley Denton, Public Health Nurse

**In attendance:**

Jim Kaufman, Lab Safety Institute  
Steve Purpura, Beacon Capital  
Alan Koder, Beacon Capital  
Eric Ewer, Beacon Capital  
David Tinory, Beacon Capital  
David J. Himmelberger, Esq, Wilder, Shea & Himmelberger, LLP  
Raj Santhappa, Lab Safety Institute  
Ian Olesen, Lab Safety Institute  
Jennifer Schulz, Sullivan and Worcester LLP

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM

1. Chairman's Report

The Board discussed the revised format for meeting minutes from June 29, 2022. The Board decided to revert to the previous format moving forward.

2. Director's Report

#### **a) Schools**

DESE has not released guidance for the upcoming school year. Mr. Cohen reported a call with Dr. Doron who believes that DESE will likely not make any requirements for Covid testing or vaccination.

#### **b) Health Department Space Expansion Update**

Mr. Izzo reported that plans for expansion of the Health Dept. office space should conclude within three months. New appliances for vaccine storage and power supply will not be a capital expense but will be grant funded. The Wellesley Health Department, the Board of Health, the Recreation Department Board and Select Board will meet to discuss more costly renovation plans options.

#### **c) Camps and Summer Activities**

Mr. Izzo reported that staff are busy with continued inspection of summer camps. There have been no major incidents but several camps have had violations or other issues that have been addressed. Moving forward the WHD intends to adjust camp inspection and approval processes to address the inconsistency and confusion within state and town codes.

#### **d) Hot Weather Planning**

The WHD has not been made aware of any heat emergency issues or events. Staff are doing camp inspections to assure they are taking appropriate measures to keep campers safe. The WHD has posted heat advisories with steps to stay safe and indoor locations with AC open to all residents. Public Housing locations have air conditioner (AC) units in all apartments and access to community rooms that have AC. The COA received grants to purchase AC units for seniors in need.

### 3. Community Health

#### **a) COVID-19 Update/Planning**

The nursing staff reported that the COVID numbers have been stable for the previous two weeks. Schools have not made recommendations yet for COVID protocols including vaccine requirements. Mr. Izzo met with the Superintendent and will invite him to the next BOH meeting to discuss plans for Wellesley School Department's opening.

### 4. Environmental Health

Beacon Capital presented to the BOH on converting office space at 93 Worcester Street to life sciences lab space.

- The plans for the lab are currently before the Zoning Board and Select Board Committee.
- Beacon Capital explained the bylaws, regulations, and permit process which includes a commitment to limit use to Biosafety Levels 1 and 2 (organisms that pose the lowest levels of hazard).
- Timeline: A permit was granted in July, work on the building will begin in late 2022 with tenant occupancy in late 2024.

#### 5. Administration

The BOH meeting on August 11, 20022 is cancelled

The next meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled for August 18, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Jhana Wallace, Community Health Coordinator