

Town of Wellesley
Board of Health Meeting (online remote)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 5th, 2023, 9:30 PM

Present

Board:

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

Staff:

Lenny Izzo, Health Department Director
Deadra Doku-Gardner, MS, Administrator
Ann Marie McCauley, RN, Public Health Nursing Supervisor
Jhana Wallace, MPH, Community Health Coordinator
Cheryl Lefman, Community Health Coordinator (Retired)
Adam DiPersio, Senior Environmental Health Specialist

In attendance:

Beth Sullivan Woods, Select Board
Christine Dougherty, Advisory Board
Bob Brown, The Swellesley Report
David J. Himmelberger, Esq.
Peter D'Agosotino, Tenax Strategies
Kate Hogan, Welltower

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM

1. Citizen Speak

There were no requests to speak.

2. Chair Report

- a. Dr. Doron moved to approve meeting minutes from 7/20/23. Ms. Oliver Grape seconded the motion. Dr. Simonson voted in favor. The minutes were approved.
- b. Dr. Simonson discussed the budget for FY25 and content for presentation to Advisory on 11/1/23. Current staffing issues were discussed.

- c. The Board discussed Opioid settlement funds and plans for a Warrant Article for the spending of funds for the Spring Town Meeting.

3. Director Report

- a. A proposed memory care and assisted living facility at 200 Pond Road was discussed. The facility is housed on property belonging jointly to Natick and Wellesley. Guest presenters included David J. Himmelberger, Esq., Peter D'Agostino from Tenax Strategies and Kate Hogan from Welltower. Priority issues for the Health Department include oversight of disease outbreaks, emergency services, sanitation and food inspection, and utilities.
- b. Mr. Izzo discussed open staff positions at the Health Department and issues with hiring. Open positions include a full-time Social Worker and full-time Environmental Health Specialist.
- c. Mr. Izzo reported on the FDA grant including plans to re-apply for additional funding. Mr. Izzo reported that the grant will result in improved quality of the Department's food inspection program.

4. Nurse Supervisor Report

- a. Ms. McCauley reported that Covid numbers remain very low and nursing staff are focused on Flu clinics. Supply of Flu vaccine is adequate. The Health Department has no plans to offer COVID vaccine but would like to purchase Shingrix and Hepatitis B vaccine.

5. Administration

- a. The Board voted on a variance request for sushi rice acidification for Karma Restaurant, 165 Linden St, Wellesley, MA. Dr. Simonson moved to approve the variance request for sushi rice acidification for Karma Restaurant. Ms. Oliver Grape seconded the motion. Dr. Doron voted in favor. The variance was approved.
- b. The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for 10/26/23 at 9:30 AM.

6. Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Board prior to posting.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jhana Wallace, Community Health Coordinator