

**Minutes from the Board of Health meeting held at 5:00 pm Thursday August 26th,
2021**

Present: Kenneth B. Lacey, Charlene Farris, Donald Makowski, Brianna Dunn

Attendees: Tricia Valiton, Stan Soltys, Cheryl Howard, Brett Kustigian, Jim Kordek, Andrew Schwenker

Absent: N/A

5:04 pm: Mr. Lacey calls the meeting to order.

5:06 pm: Mrs. Farris makes a motion to approve meeting minutes from 7/15/2021 Mr. Lacey seconds - AIF

5:10 pm: Mrs. Farris makes a motion to approve all bills and payroll, Mr. Makowski seconds - AIF

- Solid Waste Solutions- 8/1/2021 (\$2,100.00)
- Postmaster – 8/10/2021 (\$11.00) stamps
- Slim's and Berthiaume Server Service – 8/19/2021 (\$150.00)
- Burdett's Trash Pick Up- 8/15/2021 (\$719.60)
- Lisa Meunier- 8/7/21 (\$300.00)
- Lisa Meunier – 8/23/21 (\$400.00)
- Worcester County Sheriff Office – 8/2/2021 (\$40.84)
- Mike Pluta – Plumbing & Gas Inspections (\$365.00)
- Brianna Dunn- 7/24/21 (\$445.20), 7/31/21 (\$445.20), 8/7/21 (\$460.04), 8/14/21 (\$452.62), 8/21/21 (\$445.20)
- Quabbin Analytical Laboratory – E. coli testing 7/6/21-7/26/21 (\$200.00)
- Cheryl Rawinski – 6/28/21 (\$250.00)
- Tricia Valiton – 7/5/21-8/11/21 (\$900.00)
- Michelle Seremet – 7/29/2021 (\$150.00)
- Emmanuel Church Reimbursement - (\$110.00)
- Brianna Dunn Milage Reimbursement through July (\$78.40) & through August (\$112.56)
- Barton & Loguidice LLC – 7/21/2021 (\$25,500.00) & 7/21/2021 (\$5,475.75)
- Tamara Dufresne – Month of July (\$100.00) Month of August (\$100.00)

Business:

5:11 pm: Conversation opens with Mr. Kordek who is present to discuss concerns with 6-yard Republic dumpster obtained by George's Pizza-

Mr. Kordek is concerned about Public Health and the hazards the 6-yard dumpster pose to the public, it is filled to the top, has not been emptied, and has been moved to Town property during bridge construction. He has called in to the BOH prior to the meeting on 8/26/2021 to voice his concerns and follow up with the complaint. He was at George's Pizza on 8/26/2021 at 3:15 pm and noticed a sizeable amount of insects swarming the dumpster. Additionally, he is looking to understand how George's Pizza was given permission to put the dumpster in its current location without operating conditions to follow, and to which board of the town is responsible for granting permission.

Mr. Lacey responds that it was not the BOH that granted George's permission that this falls under the Select Board of the town. It was the board before the last election that granted the authority and still, the select board is the appropriate board to mandate conditions and authority to George's Pizza or anyone regarding use of town property. The BOH is responsible for complaints regarding the trash.

Mr. Soltys adds that he called Republic Services 8/26/2021 to see what he could find for information regarding why this dumpster issue cannot be rectified. Republic said they have not had any contact with George's Pizza since 6/6/2021. He told Republic he would be going to the BOH if the trash was not removed in 3 days. Republic agreed to have the trash removed in 3 days speaking with Mr. Soltys.

Mrs. Valiton, the Warren Health Inspector said she has had long conversations with employees at George's to make them aware that they cannot have overflowing trash. She has tried getting in contact with someone from Republic and cannot get through. She also adds that she will begin adding a section in food permit renewals that will provide a spot for the food establishment to give BOH information on who is hauling their grease, so BOH knows establishments have a way to dispose of it.

Mr. Kordek is mostly concerned that the owner of George's Pizza is not being a good neighbor and taking the initiative to keep the gracious hughes of our property in town, that someone had to get involved.

Mr. Lacey asks Mr. Soltys to give the contact information he used to get in contact with a Republic Representative to Ms. Dunn so she can also work the issue. If the trash is not gone, BOH will begin issuing Correction Orders.

5:26 pm: Conversation with Mr. Schwenker & Mr. Kustigian opens up-

Mr. Kustigian (QRSD Superintendent) and Mr. Schwenker (chair of QRSD school committee) asked to be put on the agenda for 8/26/2021 meeting for guidance and clarification on mask requirements for school. Prior to the 8/26/2021 meeting, DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) issued guidelines for schools, and BOH follows the guidance from DPH (Department of Public Health). Since guidance has been issued, it only left the members of QRSD with one pertaining question.

10/01/2021 the DESE guidance will be re-evaluated. If a school demonstrates a vaccine rate of 80% or greater then vaccinated students will not be subject to the DESE mask requirements. Mr. Schwenker is mostly concerned with the efficiency of finding the current vaccine rate, and he is questioning which rates DESE will go by for our school district, Warren, West Warren and West Brookfield, or would they additionally add Southbridge? Is the 80% to be understood as a town rate, or simply the school population rate?

Mr. Lacey responds by saying that Warren is never going to get an 80% vaccination rate, and he reads this by the population of the people in school not the total town vaccination rate. That vaccination rate is not going to happen in the elementary schools because the vaccines have only been approved for ages 12+. This is different for the high schools that rate could be obtained. The Pfizer vaccine was FDA approved 8/23/2021 and a long conversation should be had about the parameters of mandating a vaccine, and if it becomes mandated then drills can be done at the school for vaccinations. Mr. Lacey also goes back to the original concern of finding the current

vaccine data. The systems used to log data has a couple kinks. The system is only as good as the person entering the data, and the system was only designed to log outbreaks of communicable diseases not pandemics, it takes days sometimes for the system to update.

Mr. Schwenker says the ultimate goal is to keep kids in school and they believe they have the ability to appropriately space the students. Mr. Lacey asks if the school has yet opted in or out of the daily testing pool, he is concerned that it will take away a lot of day-to-day duties of the school nurses and they will be spending a majority of their days testing students for COVID-19. Mr. Kustigian and Mrs. Howard say they are not pool testing but will conduct testing on symptomatic students for test to stay.

Mr. Lacey reminds everyone when talking about COVID-19 and all of the data to compare apples to apples to assure relevance and gives current data for the last 2 weeks in Warren. In the last 14 days Warren has had 314 COVID-19 tests. 17 tests were positive. That is a 5.4% positivity rate in Warren of the tested population. Of Warren's total population there is a 0.3% positivity rate. If the school decides they are interested in a vaccine clinic they can reach out to BOH and we can help them. Mr. Kustigian asks who the point of contacts should be for the upcoming year. He is directed to reach out to Ms. Dunn or school nurses, both have contact information for public health nurses.

6:02 pm:

Courtesy letters and tanning applications were sent out to all beauty salons in June. Nobody in town has responded. The recommendation is that when the Health Inspector is out to stop by and assess and beauty salons and give them another application. If they do not respond within 30 days, then the Health Inspector is to go through the Board for issuance of fines which exceed the permit cost and invite them to a hearing with the Board of Health.

6:11 pm:

Ms. Valiton updates the Board on Countryside Pub-

8/24/2021 Ms. Dunn and Ms. Valiton went to Countryside Pub. Everything that was asked of Mrs. Terry has been accomplished. Ms. Valiton says the Pub is not fully up to code, but they are within the code and in compliance. Ms. Valiton gave the Pub her blessing. Mr. Lacey says to indicate they have a limited menu on their food permit, "Limited menu not full kitchen".

6:18 pm:

Ms. Valiton updates the Board on Village Market-

7/26/2021 the Board and Ms. Valiton went to Village Market for an onsite inspection. 7/29/2021 an exhaust was due to be installed, and 90 days for the area behind the prep surface to be a smooth a cleanable area.

An order is to be written to the owner of the building for a screen door. There has been recent work done to the building and no permits have been pulled for any work in the building department. The BOH is to follow up with this establishment.

6:19 pm:

Ms. Valiton updates the Board on George's Pizza-

George's Pizza has been a challenge. Freezers were in deplorable condition; they have replaced all but 1 which is due to be replaced they are just waiting for transit. Employees are using sanitizer and know how to use it, and what they are looking for when testing it, floor mats are in place, there was recently a dishwasher there following procedures, general cleanliness has much improved there have been good steps but there is more required. Ms. Valiton expects to have a firm conversation with the owner upon his return, he is still out of the country. She plans to continue to visit the establishment every 2 weeks as was the Boards recommendation.

6:22 pm:

38 Elm St. –

Last time Ms. Valiton was at this property the pool nuisance was not abated. The pool hadn't been drained and she told the occupant she would be requesting guidance from the BOH, or even for the BOH to move the issue to town council. The court order was for the pool to be drained; the occupant has had a pool company visit but there has been resolution to the pool nuisance. Recently, the pool at 38 Elm was drained overnight. Accusations have been made and Ms. Valiton wants the board to know she had no part in draining the pool. There are no mandates, or regulations on pools in the health code. She told the occupant she could dump bleach in the pool so organisms would not find habitat in the pool.

Mrs. Farris requests that this issue be moved back to court. Mr. Lacey says the select board chose to take this to court. The private pool and safety of the fence falls under the building department except if the pool provides a source of insect habitat, then that is when the Board of Health gets involved. Ms. Dunn is to draft a memo for the select board – as we can tell the nuisance has been abated.

6:40 pm:

29 Bacon St.-

The occupants of 29 Bacon St. have moved out since the inspection and correction order was written by Tricia Valiton. The property is teetering on inhabitable, if improvements are not made quickly the property can go downhill fast. Ms. Valiton has heard the owner has been working on the property and has reached out to the building inspector. Without the building inspector there is not much left she can do. Mr. Lacey asks how many days were given in the correction order issued to the owner regarding this property, Ms. Valiton responds some items were 7, 10, and 30 days. Mr. Lacey suggests if there is no response by 9/2/2021 the Board of Health takes the owner to housing court. Mr. Makowski motions that the Board of Health take Mr. Sarpong to housing court for the correction order if no contact is had by 9/2/2021. Mrs. Farris seconds, AIF.

6:48 pm:

Emmanuel Church –

Ms. Valiton informs the board that she did an inspection on Emmanuel Church pertinent to our food permit issued to them annually. Upon inspection Ms. Valiton was told by Kay Caruso that the church had never previously been inspected. Ms. Valiton says there is a lot of work to be done there and asks the board to help advise so the church can still serve food without needing the food permit. Ms. Valiton suggested to the

church and the board that they do potluck meals for the members, potlucks do require a food permit. This means that members cook and bring food to church instead of the church cooking for the members. Ms. Valiton says she told the church they could still do pour over coffee but that was it. The church asked how they would be able to do community meals, she is looking for the board's recommendation.

Mr. Makowski advises to stick with a 30-day plan for the church to continue doing potluck meals until a solid plan is created. Mr. Lacey suggests the church talk to the senior center for help, Ms. Valiton agrees they could probably cook at the senior center, a permitted kitchen in town then transport the food to the church and use a permit for the church saying where the food was prepared and where it is to be served. Ms. Valiton can dictate on a permit how an establishment is to be permitted. Mrs. Farris agrees they should stick with potlucks for now. Going forward all members and the health inspector agreed that if Emmanuel Church wants to do a community meal they need to come up with a plan, that the board and inspector can help direct them.

7:06 pm –

Michael Baril wrote a letter to the BOH concerned with pollution and toxic dumping at 600 Old West Warren Rd. also known as Copart. Mrs. Farris believes there have been car fluids leaking into the ground and the property was supposed to be cleaned before it was sold which was never enforced. Mr. Lacey says claiming material is toxic is a big accusation and not all fluids leaking from cars are toxic. Mr. Lacey asks Ms. Dunn to draft a memo to the Planning Board to ask if there has been an Environmental Site Assessment to the property.

7:19 pm-

Ms. Dunn asked if we could take funds from our RDP grant for a hazardous waste disposal day for our residents. The board agreed to allocate \$10,000.

7:30 pm –

Ms. Valiton is to follow up with the complaint received about campers between the pond and cemetery and the sanitary conditions.

7:35 pm –

Ms. Dunn asks the board for approval to take a 40-hour HAZWOPER class. This is a class that deals with hazardous waste and responding to emergency situations with the health of the public and the environment. All members agreed.

7:40 pm –

Ms. Dunn presents changes to Food Establishment Permit fees. Mr. Lacey asks that the entire fee schedule is reviewed, perc tests, sewage disposal applications, etc. There will have to be a public hearing and the hearing will need to be advertised in the local newspaper.

8:50 pm- Mr. Makowski motions to adjourn, Mrs. Farris seconds - AIF

Respectfully Submitted,

Donald Makowski – Board of Health Clerk

Date approved:

