

Board MeetingJanuary 11, 2022.....12:00 noon

Board Members Present: Dr. Bryan Bagdasian, Chairman
Dr. Bruce E. Bodner, Board Member
Dr. Charles A. Thayer, Board Member

Staff Present: Heather L. Gallant, Executive Director, Daniel Syriala, Eileen North, Brian McCracken, Michelle Borrello, Michele Bousquet

Others Present: Diane Heath, Megan DeCosta, Diane Ploss

1. Motion: By Dr. Thayer to approve December Board Meeting Minutes. Dr. Bodner seconded. All in favor. So voted.

2. Sanitary Inspectors Monthly Reports were submitted for the Board's review:

Daniel Syriala reported it has been a busy month. He has sent out the septic hauler permits.

Eileen North reported everything is going well. She sent out the 2022 food permits and is in the process of sending out late letters to businesses that have not sent back their applications.

Brian McCracken reported inspections are going well. There were only 8 businesses that did not send back their tobacco applications for renewal. He has done some housing inspections.

3. Public Health Nurse Monthly Report

Michelle Borrello reported she continues to monitor COVID clusters in the city and works with day cares and businesses for guidance. She works with Council on Aging in monitoring the positive cases in patients 65+. The Board of Health worked with Morton Hospital/DPH and Brewster ambulance to open a COVID vaccine/booster clinic at North Woods. At this point they are doing close to 400 vaccinations a day. She stated there continues to be a challenge for people to get appointments for testing. Home testing is available but it is not reportable and not accepted for travel.

4. Assistant Executive Director Monthly Report

Adam Vickstrom – not present

5. Executive Director Monthly Report

Heather Gallant reported the office has been really busy. She appreciates all the hard work everyone is doing. Contract tracing is focused on priority groups per DPH because everyone is so inundated and overwhelmed.

6. Old Business:

a. Taunton Sanitary Landfill Updates:

- a. Kevin Duquette – Not present
- b. Waste Management – No representative present
- c. Fortistar- No representative present

b. Western Bristol County Tobacco Prevention Collaborative – Updates

Diane Heath reported a new part time inspector was hired. Her name is Megan DeCosta. When Megan was in high school she was an FDA youth compliance checker. She has a bachelor's degree from UMASS Dartmouth and will be getting her master's degree at UMASS Amherst in two weeks. She will be taken youth out to do under age compliance checks as well as doing inspections on any retailer that sells tobacco.

Dr. Thayer makes a motion to accept Megan DeCosta as the new tobacco inspector in our community. Dr. Bagdasian seconded. All in favor. So voted.

c. Miscellaneous Heather Gallant stated Kevin will be doing a follow up to last month's case regarding 107 Plain Street to see if they are within compliance.

7. New Business

- a. **Miscellaneous** – Heather Gallant stated there is no new miscellaneous business.

8. Communications:

a. Miscellaneous - MA COVID-19 Information

Dr. Thayer stated we are into a 3rd surge of COVID 19 infections. At Morton Hospital, Dr. Thayer and Dr. Bodner have seen a significant rise in the amount of people affected by COVID 19. The Omicron variant accounts for 95% to 98% of the new cases in MA and spreads more quickly. This variant is not as lethal as the Delta variant which is down to less than 5% of the infections. Vaccination does moderate the lethality of the disease process. The COVID 19 Dashboard is available on the DPH website.

Diana Ploss, a citizen who called into the meeting, expressed her concerns about the use of masks and vaccines in regards to COVID 19.

9. Any Other Matters Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance- none

Schedule the Next Monthly Board Meeting:

Motion: By Dr. Bagdasian to have the next meeting January 11, 2022. Dr. Bodner seconded. All in favor. So voted.

The next monthly board meeting will be February 8th, 2022 at 12:00 noon.

Motion: For adjournment of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Bryan Bagdasian

Board Member



Dr. Bruce E. Bodner

Board Member



Dr. Charles A. Thayer

Chairman