

BOARD OF HEALTH
May 23, 2022, 4:30 pm
Remote Zoom Meeting

Present: Ruth Trimarchi, Chair
Greg Sawicki, Vice Chair

Maureen Pimentel, Member
Jennifer Murphy, Director

Meeting opened at 4:30 pm, R. Trimarchi, Chair.

1. Public Comment. The following people participated in Public Comment: Susan DeLeo, 24 Taft Dr. Stephen McCabe. Erika Hoffman, 7 Fairlane Ter. Christine Ronan, 129 Cambridge St. Melissa Mathis, 287 Highland Ave. Kristen Boutwell, 1 New Meadows Dr. Kerry Bartlett. Public Comment closed.
2. Quiet Clean Winchester. George “Woody” Wood and Rachel Whitehouse gave a presentation of the possible restricted use of gas powered leaf blowers. Potential article for fall 2022 Town Meeting. G. Wood and R. Whitehouse agreed to share draft versions of the warrant article when ready.
3. Board of Health Goals. Discussion was held regarding the goals of the Board. Action deferred until a future meeting.
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes. Motion by G. Sawicki, seconded by M. Pimentel, to accept the minutes from the May 9, 2022, Board meeting. Motion passed, vote was unanimous.
5. Director’s Update (including update from D. Butler, Coalition for a Safer Community).

D. Butler, Coalition for a Safer Community, presented an overview of all programs that took place during the 2021-2022 year.

J. Murphy noted that a link to information regarding Monkey pox would go on the Health Dept. webpage. The current COVID information was reviewed including the MWRA North System numbers and the COVID dashboard, showing a slight downward trend. It was noted that the transmission rate is still high, and a letter was sent to the school community advising masks be worn indoors. A vaccination clinic is taking place today, 43 people signed up. Booster vaccinations have been approved for 5-11 year olds, and a vaccine clinic will be held in the near future. A testing clinic will be held this Thursday, May 26, and currently there are 73 people registered. Testing will continue as needed.

6. COVID Consideration of Vote. A discussion was held regarding the intent of the Spring Town Meeting Emergency Regulation. A proposed addendum was presented by R. Trimarchi and discussed among the Board. Motion by G. Sawicki, seconded by R. Trimarchi, to add the following language at the bottom of the standing COVID 19 Public Health Emergency Regulation of the Board of Health dated April 22, 2022: Intent of this Public Health Emergency Regulation is to include all Spring Town Meetings, including all 2022 Special Town Meetings, dating addendum May 23, 2022. Motion passed 2-1 by roll call vote, G. Sawicki – Yes, M. Pimentel – No, R. Trimarchi – Yes.

Consideration of COVID Advisory. There was a discussion regarding taking a vote on a mask advisory, and the proposed advisory document was reviewed. Motion by R. Trimarchi, seconded by G. Sawicki, to adopt the proposed advisory as presented in the proposed document. Motion passed 2-1 by roll call vote, G. Sawicki – Yes, M. Pimentel – No, R. Trimarchi – Yes.

7. New Business.
 - a. R. Trimarchi initiated a conversation regarding the consideration to move the Board of Health from a 3 Member Board to a 5 Member Board, and noted process to do so if it were decided to go forward.
 - b. Reproductive Rights Statement. R. Trimarchi read a proposed statement for the Board to consider adopting the statement as written, and a discussion took place. Motion by M. Pimentel, seconded by G. Sawicki, to accept the Statement as read. Motion passed, unanimous vote.
8. Adjournment. A Motion made by G. Sawicki, seconded by M. Pimentel, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed, unanimous vote. Meeting closed at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Ruth Trimarchi, Chair

RT:rmg

Reproductive Rights Statement

Adopted by the Board of Health, May 23, 2022

The Winchester Board of Health is committed to protecting access to reproductive health services, including safe abortion, as a basic public health right. The Board recommends that reproductive health information, including legal rights to an abortion in Massachusetts; medical information; funding options; and contact information for locations of service be made readily available in print and digital form, in languages commonly spoken in Winchester including English, Mandarin and Spanish and that this information be posted on the Health Department and Board of Health webpages, and made available to any organizations or individuals who request it.