



## TOWN OF SHREWSBURY

Richard D. Carney Municipal Office Building  
100 Maple Avenue  
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 05145

Date: July 21, 2023

To: Board of Health

From: Kerry Stockwell, Principal Department Assistant

Re: Board of Health Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE: Jennie Fishman, Dr. George Abraham, Karyn Rossacci

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Central MA Regional Public Health Alliance (CMRPHA):  
Soloe Dennis, Director of Public Health  
Micah Blondeau, Regional Environmental Health Coordinator

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Amelia Houghton, Chief of Public Health Nursing

The next meeting of the Board of Health will be held on **FRIDAY, July 21, 2023** at 8:00 a.m. in the Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room located at the Richard D. Carney Municipal Building, 100 Maple Avenue, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545, at which time and place the Board of Health will consider the following agenda:

- 1. Call to order.** The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Dr. Abraham. Stephen Vigeant was the Board of Health Chairman and he completed his term on June 30, 2023. A new Chairman will be selected momentarily.
- 2. A warm welcome to Karyn Rossacci – newly appointed to the Board of Health.** Dr. Abraham and others welcomed Karyn Rossacci to the Board of Health and thanked her for her work in the health field.
- 3. Review and Act on naming a new Chairperson for the Board of Health.** Dr. Abraham addressed the Board and asked if there was any interest in becoming the next Chairman. Jennie Fishman volunteered. On a motion made by Dr. Abraham and seconded by Jennie Fishman and on a roll call vote; Dr. Abraham, aye; Jennie Fishman, aye; and Karyn Rossacci, aye, the Board of Health voted to name Jennie Fishman as Chairman to the Board of Health. Unanimously approved 3 - 0.
- 4. Review and approval of Minutes from the June 30, 2023 Board of Health Meeting.** On a motion made by Dr. Abraham and seconded by Jennie Fishman and on a roll call vote; Dr. Abraham, aye; Jennie Fishman, aye; and Karyn Rossacci, aye, the Board of Health voted to approve the Minutes from the June 30, 2023 Board of Health Meeting. Unanimously approved 3 - 0.
- 5. Review and Discuss Coronavirus / COVID-19 Update.** Soloe Dennis provided an update on behalf of Amelia Houghton, Chief of Public Health Nursing. She will be working with the senior centers in the alliance. COVID-19 vaccination clinics will be scheduled in the fall. Once that information is available, it will be communicated.

Dr. Abraham commented that a Boston Globe article from yesterday noted a slight uptick in COVID-19. Worcester County has a current positivity rate of 4.4 %. Due to the recent wet weather, many events had moved indoors producing crowding. Come winter, when people start to move indoors, there is a potential for a small increase in positive cases. There are no changes in the variants. The predominant strain is still Omicron with twenty different sub-variants in place. Vaccinations have kept the number of positive cases under control; however, there are still a vulnerable population that are still at risk.

There was a brief discussion about mosquito activity. The Town of Shrewsbury works with the Central MA Mosquito Control Program (CMMCP) for spraying. Each month a tentative spray schedule is shared with the community. The Health Department will continue to provide education on both West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE).

- 6. Review and Discuss Updates from the Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance (CMRPHA).** Micah Blondeau provided the Board with an update since the last meeting that was held on June 30, 2023. There was not anything out of the ordinary to report. Getting ready for the fall festivals such as the Pet Rock Festival, which will have many food vendors at the Scandinavian Athletic Club (SAC). No food-borne illness complaints to report. There have been a lot of nuisance complaints and an uptick in rodent complaints. With the recent rain, it is believed the rodents are moving around due to the water levels rising. The Health Department has been addressing some local issues with some residents setting out food. Advisements have been sent to those individuals to cease that practice as well as providing educational material regarding rat populations across the state.
- 7. Review meeting schedule.** The next scheduled Board of Health meeting will be held on August 18 at 8:00 a.m. in the Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room located at the Richard D. Carney Municipal Building, 100 Maple Avenue, Shrewsbury, MA 01545.
- 8. Adjourn.** On a motion made by Dr. Abraham and seconded by Jennie Fishman and on a roll call vote, Dr. Abraham, aye; Jennie Fishman, aye and Karyn Rossacci, aye, the Board of Health voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 a.m. Unanimously approved 3 - 0.

Correspondence:

- Shrewsbury Board of Health Meeting Minutes – June 30, 2023
- Appointment letter for Karyn Rossacci to serve on the Board of Health – July 10, 2023