



TOWN OF SHREWSBURY

Richard D. Carney Municipal Office Building
100 Maple Avenue, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545

Date: May 1, 2020 – REMOTE PARTICIPATION
To: Board of Health
From: Kerry Stockwell, Administrative Assistant
Re: Board of Health Meeting Minutes

REMOTE PARTICIPATION ATTENDANCE:

Stephen Vigeant, Jennie Fishman, and Dr. George Abraham – Shrewsbury Board of Health
Phil Leger - Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance (CMRPHA)
Kristen Las – Assistant Town Manager

Confirming Member Access: As a preliminary matter, this is Stephen Vigeant, Chair of the Shrewsbury Board of Health. Please permit me to confirm that all members and persons anticipated on the agenda are present and can hear me.

- Members, when I call your name, please respond in the affirmative.
Jennie Fishman – Affirmative
- Staff, when I call your name, please respond in the affirmative.
Kristen Las - Affirmative
Kerry Stockwell – Affirmative
- Anticipated Speakers on the Agenda, please respond in the affirmative.
Phil Leger - Affirmative

Introduction to Remote Meeting: Good morning. This Open Meeting of the Shrewsbury Board of Health is being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker’s Executive Order of March 12, 2020, due to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of the “COVID-19 Virus.”

In order to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 Virus, we have been advised and directed by the Commonwealth to suspend public gatherings, and as such, the Governor’s Order suspends the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible *physical* location. Further, all members of public bodies are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely.

The Order, which you can find posted with agenda materials for this meeting allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting.

Ensuring public access does not ensure public participation unless such participation is required by law. This meeting will not feature public comment.

For this meeting, the Shrewsbury Board of Health is convening by telephone conference as posted on the Town's Website identifying how the public may join.

Meeting Business Ground Rules: We are now turning to the first item on the agenda. Before we do so, permit me to cover some ground rules for effective and clear conduct of our business and to ensure accurate meeting minutes:

- The Chair will introduce each Board Member or Staff Member who has the lead role for this particulate item or guest/speaker associated with this item on the agenda. After they conclude their remarks, the Chair will go down the line of Members first and then to staff members, inviting each by name to provide any comment or questions. I will then call upon the members to offer a motion and then for a second. Please hold until your name is called. Further,
 - Please remember to mute your phone or computer when you are not speaking.
 - Please remember to speak clearly and in a way that helps generate accurate minutes.

For others in attendance that are expected to present:

- Please hold until your name is called to present.
 - Please remember to mute your phone or computer when you are not speaking.
 - Please remember to speak clearly and in a way that helps generate accurate minutes.
 - After your presentation, members of the Board will be given the opportunity to ask questions.
- Finally, each vote taken in this meeting will be conducted by roll call vote.

AGENDA

1. **Call to order.** The meeting was called to order at 8:03 a.m. by Stephen Vigeant.
2. **Review and approval of Minutes from the March 27, 2020 Board of Health meeting.**
On a motion made by Dr. Abraham, seconded by Jennie Fishman, and on a roll call vote; Jennie Fishman, aye, Dr. Abraham, aye, and Stephen Vigeant, aye, the Board of Health voted unanimously to approve the Minutes from the March 27, 2020 Board of Health meeting. Approved 3 – 0.
3. **Review and Act on the Report from the Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance (CMRPHA).**
Phil Leger provided the following updates:
 - Environmental Health* – Health Agents are responding and following up to concerns/complaints via telephone, email, and mail as much as possible due to the COVID-19 public health crisis.
 - Re-opening Businesses* – The Health Department will be seeking assistance from other departments as a collective effort to the re-opening of businesses in accordance with the COVID-19 Guidance and Orders.
 - Recreational Camps for Children* – Public Health officials are pushing the State for guidance around the operation of recreational camps (i.e. how to safely manage groups of staff and children due to COVID-19).
 - State Re-opening Advisory Board* – This Board is requesting businesses to come up with a plan on how they will re-open and maintain the safety of staff and customers.
 - Semi-public Swimming Pools* – Public Health officials are pushing the State for guidance around the opening of semi-public swimming pools.

Community Tracing Collaborative (CTC) – The Collaborative is currently addressing system glitches and lag time between CTC and MAVEN. CTC is diligently working on case transfer protocols, operational functionality and capacity.

Masks – The Health Department is receiving multiple inquiries regarding masks (i.e. who is supposed to wear them?)

Pre-planning – Trying to formulate a plan on how inspections can be conducted safely when businesses re-open. It is critical to ensure that the health team has proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as masks and gloves.

Personnel – The Worcester Division of Public Health received approval to post for a new Regional Public Health Specialist. Two (2) openings will be posted for this position. All staff is doing their best to stay on top of everyday business. Kerry Stockwell has been great about responding.

At this time, Stephen Vigeant asked each of the Board members if there were any questions. Both Jennie Fishman and Dr. Abraham did not have any questions.

Stephen Vigeant made mention that routine inspections are not currently taking place and wondered when those inspections would resume. Phil Leger responded that Health staff is responding to complaints and that their staff is down. He, himself, is in the high-risk illness category and is working remotely as much as possible. The majority of what needs to be addressed is being done. In regards to the aspect of physical inspections, personal protection is paramount. One Health Agent is a petite individual and finding protection to fit that individual will be challenging. Once Governor Baker's May 18, 2020 Order has passed, physical inspections will take place.

Stephen Vigeant acknowledged the following parties for the extraordinary work being done to keep everyone safe: Dr. Abraham at St. Vincent's Hospital, Dr. Hirsh, Public Health Medical Director, all nurses and doctors. He also thanked Kerry Stockwell, Administrative Assistant for the Board of Health who is really doing a good job keeping up with everything going on and responding to the various elements of this pandemic. He also acknowledged the Town Manager's office for keeping the Shrewsbury's residents informed during this public health crisis.

4. **Review meeting schedule.** The next Board of Health meeting will be held on Friday, June 5, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. in the Old Selectmen's Meeting Room (subject to change due to COVID-19).
5. **Adjourn.** Dr. Abraham made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 a.m. On a motion made by Dr. Abraham, seconded by Jennie Fishman and on a roll call vote; Jennie Fishman, aye, Dr. Abraham, aye and Stephen Vigeant, aye, the Board of Health voted unanimously to approve. Approved 3 – 0.

Referenced Materials

- Board of Health Meeting Minutes – March 27 , 2020
- Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A § 20 – dated March 12, 2020