



TOWN OF SHREWSBURY

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

Date: June 30, 2023
To: Board of Health
From: Kerry Stockwell, Principal Department Assistant – in person
Re: Board of Health Meeting Minutes
ATTENDANCE: Stephen Vigeant, Jennie Fishman, Dr. George Abraham – in person

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Central MA Regional Public Health Alliance (CMRPHA):
Soloe Dennis, Director of Public Health – in person
Amelia Houghton, Chief of Public Health Nursing – in person
Justin Arcure – Wellington Property Management Group
Kevin Esposito – Parks and Cemetery Maintenance Division Manager
Eleah Caseau – Conservation Agent

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Micah Blondeau, Regional Environmental Health Coordinator

The next meeting of the Board of Health will be held on **FRIDAY, June 30, 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 8:02 a.m. by Stephen Vigeant.
- 2. Review and approval of Minutes from the May 19, 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 Stephen Vigeant, aye, the Board of Health voted unanimously to approve the Minutes from the May 19, 2023 Board of Health Meeting. Approved 3 - 0.
- 3. Review and Act on posting a permanent Public Health Advisory at Dean Park Pond.**
Kevin Esposito came before the Board and explained that there is a schedule to regularly check the water quality for different water bodies in Shrewsbury. Dean Park is heavily susceptible to bacteria. The request is for the Board to consider posting a permanent Public Health Advisory at Dean Park. Conservation would continue to test the water at Dean Park to have that information for their database. The need is to put a year-round warning over there. The Board was asked to review proposed signage in their Board packet.

The Board felt that the proposed sign appeared to be contradictory. It is advising residents to avoid contact with the water but that fishing is allowed.

Kevin Esposito could not speak to condition of the fish but overall felt that a warning is what's needed. Currently, the Town is putting up and taking down signs in an effort to warn people and pets not to come into contact with the water until test results reflect acceptable limits. Last year, the sign remained posted because the water quality results were never within acceptable limits. This week, there were a few good samples in other bodies of water and some elevated but Dean Park remains the problem area.

Question: How often is the water tested? The signage is stating that the water will no longer be tested. Is there is disconnect?

Answer: The Town has been going back and forth on this but continue testing on a weekly basis.

Eleah Caseau, Conservation Agent addressed the Board. She and Kevin Esposito would like to have a discussion at a future Board of Health meeting with regards to what bodies of water here in Shrewsbury would be continued to

be tested in an effort to reduce the number of sampling locations.

The Board was concerned with how the proposed sign currently reads and does not want the public to be misled.

Question: What about fishing?

Answer: The Health Department worked with the state for the proposed signage. The state's guidance was that if fish were caught, to discard the guts and clean the fillets with tap or bottled water prior to cooking.

The Board's suggestion would be to modify the sign by removing reference that the water would no longer be tested. The rest of the sign is acceptable.

There were no further comments or questions.

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 Stephen Vigeant, aye, the Board of Health voted unanimously to post a permanent Public Health Advisory at Dean Park Pond after removing the statement that the water would no longer be tested. Approved 3 - 0.

4. Review and Act on a Memo of Understanding (MOU) for Walnut Hill Condo Association for automatic water testing versus having a Certified Pool Operator (CPO) test four (4) times daily.

Justin Arcure, from the Wellington Property Group addressed the Board to seek approval for equipment to automatically test the pool water. They have the same approved procedure on file with the Town for this practice at Harrington Farms from 2015. The equipment auto-feeds chemicals as needed and they will continue to have a Certified Pool Operator (CPO) twice per week maintain the controller and adjust the water chemistry as needed.

The Board questioned the efficacy of the automatic testing. Mr. Arcure stated that there has been consistent verification of audits along with the CPO testing twice per week. This same procedure has been taking place since April of 2015 at Harrington Farms, which Wellington Property Group also manages. There has not been any issues. The CPO will also provide training of the equipment to the Board of Trustees.

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 Stephen Vigeant, aye, the Board of Health voted unanimously for Walnut Hill Condo Association to implement automatic water testing for their semi-public swimming pool. Approved 3 - 0.

5. Review and Discuss Coronavirus / COVID-19 Update

Amelia Houghton provided the Board with an update. At this point, we have very few reported cases through the state. Virtually, nothing to speak of. People continue to test at home and those results are not reported. There are no outbreaks in the area at this time. In terms of other communicable disease, an occasional food-borne illness is reported and followed-up on. There is one (1) more COVID-19 vaccination clinic scheduled within her jurisdiction. At that point, no more orders will be placed for vaccine. The vaccine on-hand will expire in August. Vaccination clinics will start up again sometime in the fall.

Question: Will there be a vaccine for new strains?

Answer: Yes and the expectation is for it to be available within the fall timeframe. It will be an annual booster like the influenza (Flu) shot. More information will be coming in the next couple of months.

Dr. Abraham stated that the disease is still in the community and there is a new variant in the Northwestern region of the country. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) is currently monitoring about twenty (20) different variants. Next year, a combined vaccine should be available for people to receive on an annual basis.

Mr. Vigeant touched upon the Board of Health's Mask Advisory that was put in place last May.

Question: Given the low occurrence of positive cases, is there any interest in rescinding the Mask Advisory?

Answer: There is still some activity. It is an advisory, not a mandate. No harm in keeping the advisory in place. Leave it as is. For those who still want to wear a mask, it normalizes it for them and provides some level of comfort.

6. Review and Discuss Updates from the Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance (CMRPHA).

Soloe Dennis referenced the environmental health data in their Board packet from Micah Blondeau. He also

conveyed that Kevin Mizikar, Town Manager of Shrewsbury has signed an Inter-municipal Agreement (IMA) for the next five (5) years.

7. Acknowledgement of Stephen Vigeant ending his term and time serving as Chairman for the Board of Health – Effective today, June 30, 2023.

Kerry Stockwell – Could not thank Mr. Vigeant enough for his leadership and support during his three (3) terms.

Stephen Vigeant – Thanked his colleagues in getting the Board through some difficult times. Dr. Abraham provided invaluable information and direction, which made his job very easy. He thanked Soloe Dennis for staying on top of things. He also mentioned Karyn Clark, the previous Public Health Director, for the tremendous help she gave to the Board. He acknowledged Phil Leger, former Regional Environmental Health Coordinator for all of his assistance to include his expertise in Title V. Lastly, he commended Dr. Michael Hirsh, Medical Director for the City of Worcester / CMRPHA for his guidance and assistance through public health issues.

Dr. Abraham – Thanked Mr. Vigeant for his leadership, as the Chairman had been tasked with difficult decisions. He conveyed that Mr. Vigeant maintained the calm and allowed people to feel they had been heard. Dr. Abraham was particularly grateful. Mr. Vigeant has been a wonderful role model.

Jennie Fishman – It has been very nice serving alongside him and thanked him for his leadership.

Soloe Dennis – Has been the Public Health Director for the last five and a half (5 1/2) months and stated that Mr. Vigeant has been a joy to work with. Mr. Dennis thanked Mr. Vigeant on behalf of the Alliance community.

8. Review meeting schedule. The next scheduled Board of Health meeting will be held on 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, MA 01545.

9. 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 Stephen Vigeant, aye, the Board of Health voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 a.m. Unanimously approved 3 - 0.

Correspondence:

- Shrewsbury Board of Health Meeting Minutes – May 19, 2023
- Proposed permanent Public Health Advisory signage for Dean Park Pond
- Proposed Memo of Understanding (MOU) – Walnut Hill Condo Association
- Referenced Memo of Understanding (MOU) – Harrington Farms Condo Association
- Shrewsbury Board of Health Mask Advisory – May 20, 2022
- Referenced Approval Letter from the Board of Health – Harrington Farms Condo Association
- 105 CMR 435.00: MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR SWIMMING POOLS
(STATE SANITARY CODE: CHAPTER V)