

# BOARD OF HEALTH January 5, 2021

The Board of Health held a virtual meeting and was conducted via remote participation. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Present were, Elizabeth Sabounjian, Dr. Jane Williams, Dr. Daniel King and Shelly Newhouse, Director of Public Health.

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes from the December 15, 2020. Our next regularly scheduled meeting is on January 19, 2021.

#### **New Business**

### 3 Hilltop Lane failed septic system update

Donald Lyman, resident/owner has received the plans and a contract from the licensed installer. He has failed to return the contract or any phone calls by the installer. The contempt order filing with the Northeast Housing Court has been done and waiting on a court date. The Director will keep the Board updated.

## Coronavirus Update

The Director updated the Board on the current situation in Town. Currently, there are 285 active positives and over 700 in guarantine. The Director and the Health Department staff have been extremely busy with contact tracing and Massachusetts re-opening guidance implementation under the new rollback guidance. Complaints and contact tracing have been extremely busy. Most cases are coming from household spread. There are lots of business clusters as well. Vaccine rollout has been slow, but that is the norm across the State. Long term care facilities are getting vaccinated this week. On Thursday January 14, 2021 the first responders for Wilmington will receive their first dose of the vaccine at the public safety building.

## **Department Business**

Erin Murphy, the tobacco control inspector, submitted her monthly report of her duties. She was praised by the members for a detailed and interesting report.

Dr. Williams motioned to adjourn at 6:10 p.m., second by Ms. Sabounjian. Voted 3-0.



# BOARD OF HEALTH February 2, 2021

The Board of Health held a virtual meeting and was conducted via remote participation. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Present were, Elizabeth Sabounjian, Dr. Jane Williams, Dr. Daniel King and Shelly Newhouse, Director of Public Health.

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes from the January 5, 2021. Our next regularly scheduled meeting is on February 16, 2021.

### Public Hearing 401 Pouliot Place application for 10 chickens

Cuiling Wang is applying for 10 chickens. Mr. Wang previously had chickens living under his deck with inadequate water source. He was ordered to remove the chickens and apply for a permit. 401 Pouliot Place is in Shawsheen Commons which is a 40B project. There are zero lot lines and lots are under 5000 sq ft. 5 Abutters sent in comments, all are against the chickens due to concerns such as rodents, smell, fencing and area. The animal inspector recommended against the chickens, and the Director of Public Health also recommended against the chickens. Dr. Williams expressed that backyard chickens are important to families and the environment and she is proponent for residences acquiring chickens, however, in this case it is not the right area. Dr. King motioned to deny the request for 10 chickens, Dr. Williams seconded, application denied, voted 3-0.

# Public Hearing 34 Mill Road application for 6 chickens

Dominika Hudcova is applying for 6 chickens. A plan was presented showing the lot and area for chickens. This is a large lot with heavy forest behind the house. No comments from abutters and no concerns from animal inspector or Director. Dr. Williams motioned to approve the application for 6 chickens, Dr. King, seconded, application approved, voted 3-0.

# 3 Hilltop Lane failed septic system update

The Director is waiting for a housing court date. Due to COVID-19, dates have been limited at the housing courts. Mr. Lyman, resident/owner has not done anything to upgrade or repair his failed septic system. The Director will visit Mr. Lyman this week and provide an update to the Board at the next meeting.

#### **Coronavirus Update**

The Director updated the Board on the current situation in Town. Currently, there are 86 active positives and over 300 in quarantine. There has been a steady decline in cases in the Town and throughout the Commonwealth. This is good news. The local boards of health in Massachusetts are only receiving 100 doses of the Moderna Vaccine every week. Most of the vaccine is going towards the Mass Vaccination Sites such as Gillette, Fenway and soon to local pharmacies. First responders in Wilmington have received their first dose of the Moderna vaccine. The next clinics for remaining groups in Phase 1 and starting with those in the 75+ age group will begin on February 4, 2021. Weekly phased clinics will continue as vaccine gets shipped. Right now the Health Department staff have been extremely busy with calls regarding vaccine availability and still conducting contact tracing. Most cases are still coming from household spread.

Dr. King motioned to adjourn at 6:10 p.m., voted 3-0.



# **BOARD OF HEALTH** February 16, 2021

The Board of Health held a virtual meeting and was conducted via remote participation. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Present were, Elizabeth Sabounjian, Dr. Jane Williams, and Shelly Newhouse, Director of Public Health.

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes from the February 2, 2021. Our next regularly scheduled meeting is on March 2, 2021.

### **Tobacco Control Report January 2021**

Erin Murphy submitted her monthly tobacco control report. The Board is very pleased with Ms. Murphy and her duties. The Director will let Ms. Murphy know that they complimented her report presentation.

## 3 Hilltop Lane failed septic system update

There was a housing court contempt hearing on February 6, 2021. Mr. Lyman was not present. The Sheriff attempted to serve Mr. Lyman numerous times throughout the previous few days but he did not answer the door. However, service (the paperwork) was left at the door, per the Sheriff. Mr. Lyman has not repaired the failing septic system and he has not pumped the septic system. It is still in gross failure. The judge at this hearing deemed him to be in contempt of the original judgement dated November 30, 2020 that ordered him to make the necessary repairs or vacate the property by December 31, 2020. The judge took it under advisement for dating the contempt order and will send out his final order within the week. The Director will keep the Board updated on the progress.

## **Coronavirus Update**

The Director updated the Board on the current situation in Town. Currently, there are 84 active positives and over 200 in quarantine. There has been a steady decline in cases in the Town and throughout the Commonwealth. This is good news. The local boards of health in Massachusetts are possibly only receiving 100 doses of the Moderna Vaccine each week but only if supplies allow. Wilmington has not received any vaccine for the past 2 weeks and will not schedule any clinics unless notified that vaccine will be provided to the town. All of the vaccine is currently going to the Mass Vaccination Sites such as Gillette, Fenway, Danvers and soon to some targeted local pharmacies. The first responder's second dose clinic in Wilmington has been completed. The second dose clinic for the Phase 1 population will be on March 4, 2021. No other clinics have been scheduled pending notice that the town will be provided any vaccine.

Dr. Williams motioned to adjourn at 6:15 p.m., voted 2-0.

Recording:

Shelly Newhouse, Director of Public Health



# BOARD OF HEALTH March 2, 2021

The Board of Health held a virtual meeting and was conducted via remote participation. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Present were, Elizabeth Sabounjian, Dr. Jane Williams, and Shelly Newhouse, Director of Public Health.

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes from the February 16, 2021. Dr. King abstained as he was not present for the meeting. Our next regularly scheduled meeting is on March 16, 2021.

## 3 Hilltop Lane failed septic system update

Mr. Lyman was issued an Order of Contempt by the Northeast Housing Court. His deadline is March 1, 2021 to initiate repairs on his failed septic system or the Sheriff's Department could remove him from the dwelling. Mr. Lyman came to see the Director on Friday February 26, 2021 to discuss the Order. He presented the Director with a contract from a licensed installer and he said he was going to contact him to get the work started. The Director contacted the installer and he in fact was meeting with Mr. Lyman at that moment and received a deposit to begin work. A tree company was present on Monday March 1, 2021, with the installer preparing to start work after they were done. The Director will keep the Board updated on the progress.

## **Public Hearings**

53 Washington Street, application for 12 chickens 53 Washington Street application for variance to keep a rooster

The Board decided to hear the above applications as 2 separate matters. Michelle Gomes is applying for 12 chickens. The animal control officer received a complaint that the applicant was keeping chickens without a permit. After an inspection of the property, he gave a favorable recommendation for the chickens. No abutters submitted any concerns about the chickens. Dr. William's asked the applicant why she did not apply for a permit, Ms. Gomes stated she didn't know she needed one. Dr. King motioned for approval for 12 chickens, Dr. Williams, seconded, voted 3-0.

The Director explained to the Board that the applicant is keeping a rooster in violation of Board of Health regulation 7.3. The animal control officer received many complaints of noise from the rooster from abutters. Ms. Gomes stated that when they got all the chickens one turned out to be a rooster. Her son Kyle, is autistic and the chickens and the roosters are emotional support animals for him. He plays with them and sings to them as they provide him comfort. Kyle's pediatrician submitted a letter of support for the rooster as excellent therapy for Kyle. Two of the direct abutters provided written comments in support of the rooster. Ms. Gomes also supplied documentation regarding emotional support animals and other cases in Massachusetts relative to roosters. Kyle's only verbal communication is with the rooster and his daily interactions with it. Dr. Williams stated she was in favor of the rooster remaining as Kyles emotional support animal. Dr. King stated he was also in favor, however, with contingencies on the permit if granted. The Chairman, Ms. Sabounjian, suggested a quarterly review period performed by the animal control officer and that the applicant look into some noise mitigating strategies. Dr. Williams, motioned to issue the variance to regulation 7.3 and issue a permit for the rooster contingent on a quarterly review for the rest of the year. Dr. King, seconded, voted 3-0. The Director will inform the animal control officer about inspections and monitoring.

## 97 Grove Avenue, application for 6 chickens

Tara Melchionna is applying for 6 chickens. A plot plan and aerial shot was presented to the Board. The animal control officer gave a favorable recommendation. No concerns from the abutters. Dr. Williams motioned to approve the application for 6 chickens, Dr. King, seconded, voted 3-0.

#### Coronavirus update

The Director updated the Board on the current situation in Town. Currently, there are 55 active positives and over 100 in quarantine. There has been a steady decline in cases in the Town and throughout the Commonwealth. The local health departments are not receiving any more doses of vaccine and residents are encouraged to keep trying vaxfinder.mass.gov for vaccine availability. So far the Health Department has completed several clinics for first responders and those age 75 and up. Reopening guidelines have changed as of March 1, 2021 with changes to the gathering limits and sector specific opening guidance. The office has been very busy with the changes and helping those specific sectors. More guidance and changes are expected on March 22, 2021.

### **Department Business**

#### Olin

The town's consultants have been busy reviewing and evaluating the draft record of decision (ROD) from EPA. The Director has heard from the EPA and there is potential that the final ROD could be issued by the end of March. This will include a clean up plan.

Recording:	
Shelly Newhouse,	

Dr. Williams motioned to adjourn at 6:20 p.m., voted 3-0.



# BOARD OF HEALTH March 16, 2021

The Board of Health held a virtual meeting and was conducted via remote participation. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Present were, Elizabeth Sabounjian, Dr. Jane Williams, and Shelly Newhouse, Director of Public Health. The Board discussed potentially beginning meeting in person in April.

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes from the March 2, 2021. Our next regularly scheduled meeting is on April 6, 2021.

# 72 High Street - T5 Betterment application

The Board reviewed and approved the T5 Betterment application filed by homeowner Jennifer Assenza.

### Punjab Corner - 433B Main Street

The Director presented the Board with a floor plan and menu for a new Indian restaurant. Dr. Williams motioned to approve the floor plan, Dr. King, seconded, voted 3-0.

### Department Business

## 3 Hilltop Lane failed septic system update

Mr. Lyman has completed the installation of the replacement for his failed septic system.

#### **Tobacco Control Report**

The Board reviewed the most recent tobacco control report from January. The Board is pleased with Erin Murphy's job performance.

### Coronavirus update

The Director updated the Board on the current situation in Town. Currently, there are 79 active positives and over 150 in quarantine. There has been a small uptick in cases in the Town and throughout the Commonwealth. The local health departments are not receiving any more doses of vaccine and residents are encouraged to keep trying vaxfinder.mass.gov for vaccine availability. More guidance and changes are expected on March 22, 2021 from the Governor.

The Finance Committee public hearing for the Town Meeting warrant is tonight, March 16, 2021.

Dr. Williams motioned to adjourn at 6:05 p.m., voted 3-0.



# BOARD OF HEALTH April 6, 2021

The Board of Health held a virtual meeting and was conducted via remote participation. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Present were, Dr. Dan King and Dr. Jane Williams, and Shelly Newhouse, Director of Public Health.

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes from the March 16, 2021. Our next regularly scheduled meeting is on May 4, 2021.

### Public hearings

### 150 Aldrich Road -application for increase in number of chickens and ducks

The applicant Myriam Moser was present and is asking for an increase in the number of chickens and additional muscovie ducks. Her permit is currently for 8-12 and she would like 12-20. Dr. King read into the record an anonymous letter expressing concerns about the increase in the number of animals. The applicant addressed those concerns. Muscovie ducks do not need water and are small birds that make no noise. They are primarily used for meat. Her chickens are not free range and she is in the process of expanding her coop to allow for the increase. Her main reason for increase is so she can keep rotating the flock and doesn't expect to have 20 ducks and chickens, but she may need to and did not want to violate her permit, thus the reason for the application for the increase. The animal inspector gave a favorable recommendation. Dr. Williams motioned to approve the application for up to 20 ducks and chickens, Dr. King, seconded, voted 2-0.

#### 75 Lawrence Street-application for 6-8 chickens

The applicant, Andrew Guiollette was present and is asking for a new permit for 6-8 chickens. Mr. Guiollette wants to get the chickens for his kids and for the eggs. The Director read into the record an anonymous letter from an abutter expressing concerns related to dust, allergens and asthma due to chickens. The coop is located at the rear of the property along the railroad tracks and away from any abutters. Dr. Williams commented on the concerns of the abutter stating that there is science showing that there is low evidence of asthma exacerbation from chickens. If the abutter still has concerns, he/she should reach out to their own physician. The animal control officer gave a favorable recommendation. Dr. Williams motioned to approve the permit for up to 8 chickens, Dr. King, seconded, voted 2-0.

#### 22 Fairfield Road-application for 25 chickens

The applicant, Harvey Bazille is applying for a new permit for 25 chickens. He wants to use them primarily for meat as he has had them before in Brazil. No comments or concerns from abutters. However, both the animal inspector and Director feel that 25 chickens in this area is a lot for a first time permit holder. Mr. Bazille only requested 25 because that is what the order requests. Dr. Williams suggested that the number of chickens should be based on what you and your land can handle and not what you have to order. Mr. Bazille does not have the coop yet as he was waiting to see if he got the permit first. It will be a mobile coop so he can move it around. Dr. Williams made a motion for up to 15 chickens with the caveat that the animal inspector inspect the coop before he receives the chickens, Dr. King, seconded, voted 2-0.

#### **Department Business**



# BOARD OF HEALTH May 4, 2021

The Board of Health held a virtual meeting and was conducted via remote participation. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Present were, Elizabeth Sabounjian, Dr. Dan King and Shelly Newhouse, Director of Public Health.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting is on May 18, 2021.

## Public hearings

### 588 Woburn Street –application for increase in number of chickens and ducks

The applicant Elizabeth Pimental is applying for 12 chickens. This residence has had an animal permit before, but not in many years. During his inspection the animal control inspector found that the coop is not ready yet to house chickens. Ms. Pimental agreed. Dr. King motioned to continue the hearing to the next meeting, Ms. Sabounjian, seconded, voted 2-0.

### **Department Business**

#### Olin update

EPA is currently considering dates for the community public meeting in the upcoming months to present the ROD, updates on DPH and the childhood cancer study, and upcoming activities at the Site. The meeting will likely be in June when indoor COVID restrictions are lessened.

#### Coronavirus update

The Director updated the Board on the current situation in Town. Currently, there are 58 active positives and over 200 in quarantine. We are seeing youth sports, club sports and organizations as having the most cases. Residents are encouraged to keep trying vaxfinder.mass.gov for vaccine as there is great availability. Gathering limits are changing on May 29<sup>th</sup> and most restrictions are slated to be lifted by August.

#### **New Business**

#### 887 Main Street

The Director emailed correspondence to the Board regarding the application and it's status for the solid waste transfer station proposed at the above referenced site. There was technical review fee attached to the correspondence. The applicant, Anthony Martignetti is responsible for providing the payment for the Board of Health to contract with a consultant for technical review of the project. The Board has selected Geo Insights. If the project is approved by the DEP, the Director expects the site assignment hearings to begin in the Fall in front of the Board.

Dr. King motioned to adjourn at 6:05 p.m., voted 2-0.



# BOARD OF HEALTH May 18, 2021

The Board of Health held a virtual meeting and was conducted via remote participation. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Present were, Elizabeth Sabounjian, Dr. Dan King and Shelly Newhouse, Director of Public Health.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting is on June 1, 2021. This will be held in person in Room 9 of the Town hall.

### **Public hearings**

## 588 Woburn Street – continued application for increase in number of chickens and ducks

This is a continuation from the May 4, 2021 meeting. The applicant Elizabeth Pimental is applying for 12 chickens. This residence has had an animal permit before, but not in many years. The animal control inspector conducted his inspection and is giving a favorable recommendation. No comments or concerns from abutters. Dr. King motioned to approve the application for 12 chickens, Ms. Sabounjian, seconded, voted 2-0.

#### **Department Business**

# Olin update

EPA is having a public information meeting to present the Record of Decision, the Wilmington Cancer Study findings and the current status at the Olin Site. This will be on June 23, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be conducted virtually.

#### Coronavirus update

The Director updated the Board on the current situation in Town. Currently, there are 15 active positives and over 50 in quarantine. 45% of the Town's eligible population have been vaccinated. The mask order has been lifted as of May 18, 2021. All restrictions will be lifted on May 29, 2021. The health department is encouraging residents to continue getting the vaccine. Now that kids ages 12-15 are eligible we will ask the school department offer a memo to families encouraging kids to get vaccinated.

#### **Old Business**

The Director gave an update on the rooster at 53 Washington Street. The animal inspector has received 7 complaints since receiving the permit. The last complaint was on 4/29/21. Since that time, the residence has padded the coop, installed a tarp and put a collar on the rooster. The Board was happy with the improvements and the Director will keep the Board updated.

Dr. King motioned to adjourn at 6:05 p.m., voted 2-0.



# BOARD OF HEALTH June 1, 2021

The Board of Health held their first in person meeting in over a year. The meeting was in Room 9 of the Town hall was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Present were, Elizabeth Sabounijan, Dr. Dan King, Dr. Jane Williams and Shelly Newhouse, Director of Public Health.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting is on June 15, 2021. This will be held in person in Room 9 of the Town hall.

### **Public hearings**

# 405 Chestnut Street - application for 5-10 chickens

The applicant Michelle Silva was present. She is applying for 10 chickens. The animal control inspector conducted his inspection and is giving a favorable recommendation. The applicant presented a very detailed application. No comments or concerns from abutters. Dr. King motioned to approve the application for up to 10 chickens, Dr. Williams, seconded, voted 3-0.

# Floor plan – Wilmington Nutrition, 2 Lowell Street

The Director presented the Board with a floor plan and menu for Wilmington Nutrition. The food establishment will be making protein shakes from a powdered formula. No food preparation, but blenders will be used. Dr. King motioned to approve, Dr. Williams, seconded, voted 3-0.

#### **Department Business**

#### Olin update

EPA is having a public information meeting to present the Record of Decision, the Wilmington Cancer Study findings and the current status at the Olin Site. This will be on June 23, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be conducted virtually. The Director has been working with the EPA on potentially changing the Board of Health's private well regulations to incorporate "areas of concern" such as Olin and the Sutton Brook superfund sites. There could be potential limitations in these areas if residences and businesses want to install a potable or irrigation well. Any changes to our regulations will require a public hearing. The Director will keep the Board updated on discussions and any drafts.

#### Coronavirus update

The Director updated the Board on the current situation in Town. Currently, there are 9 active positives. Over 50% of the Town's eligible population have been vaccinated. All restrictions have been lifted and the reopening is going well for the Town. The Health Department in coordination with the School Department is holding a COVID vaccination clinic at the Wilmington Middle School on Wednesday June 9, 2021 from 5 -8 pm. The clinic will also be open to the whole community and walk-ins will be encouraged.

Dr. King motioned to adjourn at 6:15 p.m., voted 3-0.



# BOARD OF HEALTH August 17, 2021

The meeting was in Room 9 of the Town hall and was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Present were, Elizabeth Sabounjian, Dr. Dan King, Dr. Jane Williams and Shelly Newhouse, Director of Public Health. Our next regularly scheduled meeting is on September 7, 2021.

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes from July 20, 2021 The Board reviewed and approved the minutes from August 3, 2021

#### **New Business**

As an update to the Board the Director informed them that the rooster at 53 Washington Street has been removed.

## **Tobacco Control Agent**

The Director informed the Board that a new Tobacco Control Agent has been hired to represent the Wilmington, Lexington, Bedford and Concord tobacco control collaborative. Ian Worstell has already started and will begin reaching out to all establishments to introduce himself. Mr. Worstell will come to a future meeting to introduce himself.

#### **Department Business**

## **Private Well regulations**

The Director presented to the Board that she has been working with EPA and DEP on a moratorium regulation for private wells. The original draft well regulations presented at the Public Hearing on August 3. 2021 will be changed to reflect this and presented to the Board at the continued public hearing on September 21, 2021

#### Coronavirus update

The Director updated the Board that there are currently 33 active positives in Town. 17 are breakthrough cases of fully vaccinated individuals and 5 are under the age of 18.

#### EJ's Grab & Go

The Director informed the Board that EJ's Grab & go will be opening on Thursday August 19, 2021.

Dr. King motioned to adjourn at 6:00 p.m., voted 3-0.

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Recording:

Shelly Newhouse, Director of Public Health



# BOARD OF HEALTH September 7, 2021

The meeting was in Room 9 of the Town hall and was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Present were Dr. Dan King, Dr. Jane Williams and Shelly Newhouse, Director of Public Health. Our next regularly scheduled meeting is on September 21, 2021.

The Board reviewed the most recent food inspection reports.

The Tobacco Control Agent will be present at a future meeting. The Director wanted all members present to officially welcome him.

### **Department Business**

## **Private Well regulations**

The Director presented to the members the latest draft. The only comments that the Board will discuss at the public hearing will be the effective dates for the moratorium. The regulations will reflect this and be presented to the Board at the continued public hearing on September 21, 2021.

# Coronavirus update

The Director updated the Board that there are currently 96 active positives in Town. 39 are breakthrough cases of fully vaccinated individuals. Most cases are being presented as families. Cases are coming from gatherings and travel. The schools are wearing masks under the DESE guidance. The Director will monitor the trends and report back at the September 21, 2021 meeting.

Dr. Williams motioned to adjourn at 6:00 p.m., voted 2-0.

Recording:

Shelly Newhouse, Director of Public Health