



TOWN OF NORTH READING
Massachusetts

Board of Health

**'North Reading Board of Health Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2022
Teleconference/Virtual**

Members Present: Gary Hunt, Chairman
Karen Martin
Pam Vath

Others Present:
Robert Bracey, Health Agent
Michael Murphy

Stephanie Connolly
Christine Doolin

RECEIVED
2022 JUL -7 AM 11:13
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
NORTH READING, MASS.

7:00 PM

Mr. Gary Hunt opened the meeting.

Minutes

Previous minutes being reviewed, and will be signed and posted to the Board of Health/Health website.

Public Health Nurse Report:

Pam reports that there has been about 8 cases of influenza, most have been younger folks. COVID numbers are down to less than 20 in the last week. Mr. Hunt asked Pam if there was anything on Lyme disease. Pam reports not yet.

Health Director Report:

At this time the North Reading positivity rate has gone up from last week from 3.35% to 4.54%. Mr. Bracey reported that the two week count for last week was 35 which is down from the January average of 235 cases a week. Since March in North Reading we have been averaging about 28 cases a week. Over the last 6 weeks we have seen a significant drop in the number of cases. Vaccination rates on individuals with one dose are at 83%, individuals in the community fully vaccinated are at 75%, individuals with the booster are at 47%. There was a clinic last week and about 30 residents showed up.

235 North Street, North Reading, MA 01864

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Mr. Hunt asked what other towns are doing in response to their numbers. Mr. Bracey stated they are continuing with public messaging, vaccinations, and testing at the Shriners Auditorium in Wilmington.

Community Sanitation Update

Funeral Director Permits: Cota and Croswell permits will be sent to the board to sign and issue.

Recreational Camps and Public and Semi Public Swimming Pools: Mr. Bracey has been working with Parks and Recreation on the guidelines, and as camps starting to get ready for the season.

Environmental Health Update

Tobacco control: Mr. Bracey gave an update regarding tobacco and met with Ron Beauregard last week. Over the next couple of weeks code enforcement will start to resume. Mr. Hunt asked when the last inspections were done by Ron's group. Mr. Bracey stated that it has been about a year and a half due to COVID, and folks not going out. Hopefully in the next week or two we will get everybody into compliance.

Mosquito Control: The state will be doing weekly testing starting in June. Mr. Bracey stated that we will be working with the Mosquito control group and host our annual Mosquito/Lyme disease prevention presentation. Two years ago the presentation was done at the library. Mr. Bracey will be reaching out to Sharon Kelleher in the next couple weeks to get that finalized.

Title 5 Updates: In October 2021, at the Board of Health meeting, the board had some questions and concerns and requested Mr. Scolfield to provide performance data, which they have not yet received.

The Health Department has been in correspondence with the GeoMat attorneys since December 2021, trying to get the questions and concerns answered.

Mr. Bracey stated he reached out to Mass DEP to try and see if he could ascertain some information that way. Mr. Bracey also put in a public records request for that performance criteria. Mass DEP reports that they do not have any performance data on any of the systems that contain two thousand gallons or less a day.

Mr. Hunt stated at our next meeting we should have a vote regarding the GeoMat system.

Mr. Hunt asked members Karen Martin and Pam Vath to consider some of the issues with the system such as the reduced leach field, the reduced distance above the ground water table and whether it's acceptable for new construction or limited to remedial construction upgrades only. The Health Departments policy over the years has been that new construction must adhere to Title V.

Pam Vath and Karen Martin said they would be happy to educate themselves and do some more research and discuss it further at the next meeting.

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Food Protection Program


Mr. Bracey gave an update and reports we are getting back to doing routine inspections.
At this time there have been no issues with any of the restaurants so far.
Mr. Hunt reports he has heard that Nick's Place is doing a good job.

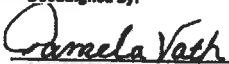
Next Board of Health Meeting is to be scheduled for June 2, at 7:00 PM.

Karen Martin motioned *to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm.*

Motion seconded by Gary Hunt

Karen and Gary voted in favor.

DocuSigned by:

518423958E7C468
Gary Hunt

DocuSigned by:

6A8AF14FEB41408
Pamela Vath

DocuSigned by:

1820A173D478497
Karen Martin

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