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Town of North Reading  
Massachusetts

TOWN CLERK  
NORTH READING, MA

Board of Health

**North Reading Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
July 29, 2020  
Teleconference/Virtual**

**Members Present:** Gary Hunt, Chairman  
Karen Martin  
Pamela Vath

**Others Present:** Robert Bracey, Health Agent North Reading  
Amy DiChiara  
Lauren Gulbicki  
Mary Samost  
Ronald Beauregard, Healthy Communities  
Patrick Daly, Superintendent of Schools  
Scott Buckley, School Committee Chairman  
Stephanie Connolly  
Sean Delaney  
Amy Luckiewicz  
Mr. Patel  
Dan Mills, Resident  
Rich McGowan

**7:00 PM**

Mr. Gary Hunt opened the meeting.

**Tobacco Hearing**

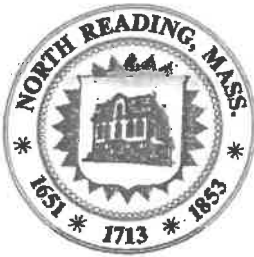
After Mr. Patel requested an extension of two weeks from July 16, 2020 to come before the Board of Health, his hearing was held on July 29. This violation of Massachusetts tobacco regulations involved selling a product containing 5% nicotine at the Richdale Convenience store. This concentration translates to approximately 59 mg/mL which is above the 35 mg/mL legal limit in Massachusetts.

Mr. Patel admitted to his wrongdoings and has confirmed that these products have been removed from his stores. Mr. Patel assures the Board of Health that an incident like this will not happen again. Additionally, he has educated his employees on current Massachusetts regulations.

**Gary Hunt motioned** that as a result of the June violation, a \$1000 fine will be levied against Mr. Patel with no closure of the facility for any length of time.

**Motion seconded by Pam Vath.**

**All members voted unanimously in favor.**



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***Board of Health***

**School Reopening Update**

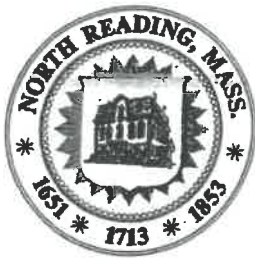
North Reading Public Schools has designed three plans to submit to the state for reopening: in person with all students attending, a remote plan with all students at home, and a hybrid plan.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has recently updated their reopening guidelines. According to these, it was proposed that children only require three feet rather than six feet of space to adequately social distance. With this change, schools will be able to accommodate the return of all students. Superintendent Patrick Daly requested input from the Board of Health to inform his recommendation of three or six feet for students' social distancing. Concerns were raised about the safety of teachers with these changes. The Board did not feel comfortable recommending three feet at this time.

The next School Committee meeting will occur the morning of Thursday July 30, 2020 to finalize plans prior to submitting these to the state on July 31, 2020. The Board of Health will meet again on Monday August 3, 2020 at 8:00pm to discuss the proposed school reopening plan and provide feedback. The complete plan will be released to the town by August 10, 2020. A ten-day extension from the original school start date of September 9 has been granted to allow for proper planning and training for teachers.

**COVID-19 Update**

As of July 29, 2020, North Reading has had a total of 208 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 145 from the community and 63 at or associated with the Royal Meadow View Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Since July 1, there have been 8 confirmed cases. Of those 208 cases 192 have recovered, 141 individuals from the community and 51 from Royal Meadow View. The Health Department is currently monitoring 2 active cases. There has been a total of 14 deaths, 12 of these were confirmed COVID-19 cases at or associated with the Meadow View Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Amongst North Reading residents, there has been one death from a confirmed case and one death from a suspected case.



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***Board of Health***

**Plastic and Reusable Bag Policies**

On March 25 and April 7, Governor Baker established orders to outline protocol for grocery stores and pharmacies. According to the March 25 "Order of the Commissioner of Public Health Regarding Grocery Store and Pharmacy Operations," these stores may temporarily use single use plastic bags, compostable plastic bags, and recyclable paper bags. This includes stores under regulations banning single use plastic bags such as those in North Reading. Additionally, grocery stores and pharmacies cannot accept reusable bags, nor can they charge a fee for single use plastic bags, recyclable paper bags or compostable plastic bags.

As of July 10, 2020, both of these orders have been rescinded by the State. Stores may now accept reusable bags. Due to the pandemic the North Reading Board of Health is not enforcing the Order to Ban plastic bags at this time. Stores that wish to not allow personal reusable bags may do so and they may use plastic bags until the time comes that the Declaration of Emergency is lifted.

**Public Health Nurse Position**

The description for the public health nurse has been finalized and it is expected that it has been posted.

**Memorial for Martin Fair**

An inquiry has been sent out to gather input about the details for the memorial for Martin Fair. The memorial will be discussed at a meeting on August 12.

The next BOH meetings will be held Monday August 3, 2020 at 8:00pm and Wednesday August 12, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

**Pam Vath motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm.**

**Motion seconded by Gary Hunt.**

**All members voted unanimously in favor.**

DocuSigned by:

Gary Hunt

DocuSigned by:

Pamela Vath

DocuSigned by:

Karen Martin