



**TOWN OF PLYMOUTH
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
January 11, 2023 @ 4:00 PM
MINUTES**

The following Board of Health meeting was held on Wednesday **January 11, 2023** at 4:00 PM via PACTV

Present

Barry Potvin, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Chair
Teri Reid, MD, FAAP, Vice Chair
Amy Palmer, MPH
David Golden, MPA
Deb Zona, RN, MHA, CMCN, FACHE (alternate)

Department

Karen Keane, Public Health Director

Excused

Lorenzo Pizarro, MBA

Agenda

- Grease Trap Variance Request – 44 Main St. – Rick Vayo
- Welcome & Introduction Student Representatives – Scarlett & Caroline
- Board of Health Goals Update & Discussion
- Student Representatives – Concerns and Comments
- COVID, RSV & Influenza Update
- BioReady Platinum Certification Requirements
- Fee Structure Update
- Director’s Report
- Chairperson’s Announcements – Behavioral Health Hotline, Alternate Septic Systems
- New/Old Business
- Adjournment

- *Disclosure: These minutes are not verbatim – they are the secretary’s interpretation of what took place at the meeting. – Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A § 22.*
- *These minutes are a record as accepted by the Board of Health.*
- *All materials presented during this meeting are available in the Public Health Department.*
- *Administrative Business – May include topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting.*

HYBRID PARTICIPATION IN-PERSON OR VIA ZOOM WEBINAR

Pursuant to MA Senate Bill 2457 signed by Governor Baker on June 16, 2021, a second bill (H4345) signed by Governor Baker on February 12, 2022 and a third bill signed on July 16, 2022 which allow government bodies to continue to conduct meetings virtually until March 31, 2023, as long as members of the public can easily access the proceedings in real time and participate remotely, this meeting will be conducted both in person and via remote participation. Members of the public who wish to watch the meeting may do so in the following manner: tune into PACTV government cable access channels Comcast Channel 15 or Verizon Channel 47 and watch the meeting as it is aired live, or watch the meeting live on the PACTV website at: <https://www.pactv.org/pactv/towns/plymouth>. You may also watch when the show is replayed on pactv.org

4:00 PM

Welcome

4:03 PM – Grease Trap Variance Request – 44 Main St. – Rick Vayo

On a motion by David Golden and seconded by Amy Palmer, the board unanimously voted to approve the Grease Trap Variance for 44 Main St. Unanimous vote through rollcall: 5/0

4:06 PM – Welcome & Introduction Student Representatives – Scarlett & Caroline

4:14 PM – Board of Health Goals Update & Discussion

Amy Palmer shared her thoughts with the Board members regarding the goals from previous years that were accomplished and new goals that align with the ideas of the current Board of Health. Karen Keane stated that she thinks that a “marketing” approach would be a way to reach out to the towns different audiences. She suggested reaching out to The Clearinghouse. Dr. Potvin asked Scarlett and Caroline to think of some topics or concerns they have so that the Board can help with getting the word out in the schools. Karen Keane suggested that maybe the Board could set up some “task forces” for the some of the different topics so that the weight of the duties doesn’t fall just on the Board of Health Members.

4:31 PM – Student Representatives – Concerns and Comments

Dr. Potvin asked Caroline and Scarlett if they could share their individual concerns, comments or suggestions with the Board of Health that would give them some direction and allow them to better serve the schools and the students that attend the schools. Scarlett stated that she thinks that the biggest issue at the moment is the flu. She wondered if there is a way to “push” the flu vaccine so that the students who aren’t vaccinated would get vaccinated to stop the spread. There have been a large number of students absent due to the flu. Dr. Potvin suggested putting posters up; Scarlett said that there is “PNN” – Plymouth North News – that she thought maybe they could work with them to get a small segment at the end of their news report to encourage flu vaccinations but thinks that posters are a good idea, too.

Caroline agreed with Scarlett regarding the flu being an issue. She stated that they have “Panther TV” at the Plymouth South High School and said that maybe they could get a segment there, as well.

4:40 PM – COVID, Influenza and RSV Update

- Latest available data from Plymouth Department of Public Health, MA DPH and CDC.

4:55 PM - BioReady Platinum Certification Requirements

Karen Keane stated that currently, the Town of Plymouth is Gold Level. To be BioReady, meaning for a bio medical company to come to Plymouth, we need to reach the Platinum level. In order to do that, two things must happen: Plymouth has to show that it has at least 20,000 sq ft of space and, it requires that the local Board of Health takes a vote to adopt the Federal Guidelines and Regulations for BioReadiness developed by the National Institutes of Health will be the same guidelines and regulations that the town will also enforce. This discussion is just the first step in moving toward obtaining Platinum level. If we got Platinum status, we would become very attractive as a site for pharmaceuticals and biomedical facilities which could become lucrative for the Town of Plymouth.

On a motion by Amy Palmer and seconded by Teri Reid, the board voted that the same discussion will be held and a subsequent vote on this proposal will occur at the next BOH meeting on January 25, 2023. Unanimous vote through rollcall: 5/0

5:28 PM - Fee Structure Update

Karen Keane proposed an increase in the Title 5 report submission fee from \$50 to \$75 per report submission. This would generate almost \$11,000 more for the department based on the previous year’s submissions.

On a motion by Amy Palmer and seconded by Teri Reid, the board voted to approve the fee increase for Title 5 report submissions from \$50 to \$75. Vote through rollcall: 4/1

5:35 PM – Director’s Report

See attached

5:43 PM – Chairperson’s Announcements

Dr. Potvin shared slides and information on the new Community Behavioral Health Centers in Milford and Norwood. The Behavioral Health Help Line is 833-777-BHHL (2445).

Dr. Potvin discussed recent public health concerns with gas stoves – benzene, toluene, methane, small particulate matter – use exhaust fan.

Dr. Potvin also discussed alcohol harm in youth: liver disease deaths are skyrocketing.

Finally, Dr. Potvin shared that the Public Health Excellence Grant is planning to hire an Environmental Specialist.

5:53 PM – New/Old Business

5:54 PM – Adjournment

On a motion by Amy Palmer and seconded by Teri Reid, the board voted to adjourn. Unanimous vote through rollcall: 5/0