



**TOWN OF PLYMOUTH
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
January 25, 2023 @ 4:00 PM
MINUTES**

The following Board of Health meeting was held on Wednesday **January 25, 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
Lorenzo Pizarro, MBA
Deb Zona, RN, MHA, CMCN, FACHE
(alternate)

Department

Karen Keane, Public Health Director

Agenda

- Approval of Meeting Minutes from 12/28/2022
- Variance Request – 21 Hillcrest Rd – Kevin Flaherty
- Variance Request – 57 Haskell Rd – Zach Basinski
- MA Alternate Septic Systems / Nitrogen Effect upon Cyanobacteria Blooms – Brian Baumgaertel
- BioReady Application for Platinum Status – Vote on Laboratory Regulations
- COVID & Influenza Update
- Discussion of Public Health Initiatives for Plymouth Public Schools
- Board of Health Goals Update & Discussion
- Director’s Report
- Chairperson’s Announcements
- 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 – Approval of Meeting Minutes from 12/28/2022

On a motion by Amy Palmer and seconded by Teri Reid, the board unanimously voted to approve the minutes from 10/26/2022. Unanimous vote through rollcall: 4/0

4:04 PM – Variance Request – 21 Hillcrest Rd – Kevin Flaherty

Kevin Flaherty explained the details of the variance request. Jennifer Copeland and John Fialkowski shared

their concerns as to the placement of the subject SAS and the distance from their existing well at 123 Little Sandy Pond Rd. After discussion, all parties agreed to move the SAS from the current planned location to address the concerns of Jennifer and John.

On a motion by Amy Palmer and seconded by Teri Reid, the board unanimously voted to approve the variance request for 21 Hillcrest Rd. subject to a revised plan showing the SAS moved slightly to be located further away from a well located at 123 Little Sandy Pond Rd. Unanimous vote through rollcall: 4/0/1 - Lorenzo Pizarro abstained.

4:30 PM – Variance Request – 57 Haskell Rd – Zac Basinski

On a motion by David Golden and seconded by Teri Reid, the board unanimously voted to approve the Variance Request for 57 Haskell Rd. Unanimous vote through rollcall: 5/0

4:34 PM – MA Alternate Septic Systems/Nitrogen Effects upon Cyanobacteria Blooms – Brian Baumgaertel

Dr. Potvin shared slides. Brian Baumgaertel shared information and explained the causes and effects of too much Nitrogen or Phosphorous from septic systems. Brian also spoke about a “standard” system vs. an alternate system.

5:20 PM – BioReady Application for Platinum Status – Vote on Laboratory Regulations

On a motion by Amy Palmer and seconded by Teri Reid, the board voted to approve that the Plymouth Board of Health fully adopts the April 2019 updated version of the National Institutes of Health Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acids Molecules as a component of Plymouth’s Biological Laboratory Regulations & Guidelines. Unanimous vote through rollcall: 5/0

5:24 PM – COVID & Influenza Update

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

5:35 PM – Board of Health Goals Update & Discussion

Lorenzo Pizarro shared the information and ideas that he and Amy Palmer have discussed.

5:51 PM – Director’s Report

See attached

5:54 PM – Chairperson’s Announcements

Dr. Potvin shared a public question asking if it is legal for them to have their pet dogs at a grocery store. The answer to that question is yes, if they are a service animal. The dog must have a service animal vest on, must stand next to the owner and must be on a short leash (not retractable).

5:58 PM – New/Old Business

Dr. Potvin mentioned a class action lawsuit in the U.S. alleging that Coca-Cola and Simply Orange Juice deceived customer with claims that an all-natural, healthy product with the juice has been found to be contaminated with toxic PFAS at levels “hundreds of times” above federal advisory limits for drinking water.

Dr. Potvin also shared that MA DPH sent out an alert for sexually transmitted diseases as follows: Antibiotic resistant gonorrhea cases are increasing; resistance to 5 different classes of antibiotics have been seen; normal PCR testing for initial diagnosis must be supplemented with cultures in order to identify resistance or sensitivity to antibiotics and treatment with the injection of 500mg of ceftriaxone is still effective (only remaining antibiotic that can be used).

6:00 PM – Adjournment

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