

Town of Maynard

Board of Health

Meeting Minutes – September 22, 2020 – Meeting via Zoom

The Maynard Board of Health held a scheduled meeting on Tuesday, September 22nd, 2020 virtually via zoom at 6:30 PM. Ronald Cassidy, Kathy McMillan and Lisa Thuot were present. Kelly Pawluczonek, Health Agent and Megan Zammuto, Assistant Town Administrator/Executive Director of Municipal Services were also in attendance.

1. Call Meeting to Order

A motion was made by Kathy McMillan and seconded by Lisa Thuot to open the BOH meeting at 6:35. The motion was supported unanimously.

2. Public Comment

Shionneka Warren, resident of 18 Railroad Street provided the following public comments:

- Shared concerns about repairs done in units on Railroad Street.
- Asked how the property owner can be held accountable when repairs are not made or are made poorly.
- Shared concern about recurring pest infestation, the extermination work has not been successful in solving the problem. Question about the Building Commissioner's role in inspecting housing units.
- Raised questions about a 2019 inspection regarding 18 Railroad Street, and issues that continue to be cited in each inspection.
- Asked how the Human Relations Committee (HRC) could be involved in working with the Board of Health to understand these issues and support the tenants on Railroad Street.

The board discussed the CMR – Minimum Standards of Fitness for Human Habitation (State Sanitary Code). M. Zammuto offered to meet with Ms. Warren to discuss past the order letters for 18 Railroad St., and current order letter that outlines existing issues. M. Zammuto will ask Town Counsel how the HRC could work with the BOH.

3. Property Management Discussion – Railroad St.

K. Pawluczonek provided an update regarding recent Railroad St. inspections and enforcement orders. Several units were inspected using CMR 410.750's – Health and Life Safety inspection in July, and reinspection's for most units were completed in August. Pest control has been in to treat the necessary units. Jordan Property Management (JPS) is the new management company and will be handling all repairs. The Office of Municipal Services is awaiting payment on necessary plumbing permits and awaiting other sheet metal and building permits that are necessary to complete the outstanding repairs. Staff has been working with Town Counsel to monitor the ongoing repairs and discuss potential enforcement regarding incomplete repairs.

The Board discussed the pest infestation issue and asked that staff check with the property owner regarding the pest control contract, as they may need to expand how they manage the issue.

4. COVID-19 Update

K. Pawluczonek provided an update to state guidelines that will be in effect on Monday, September 28th.

- Restaurants will be able to seat 10 patrons, an update from the 6 person limit
- Self-serve drink stations can open – example Cumberland farms. Will not be allowed for food permit holders (example subway).
- Monday – you can sit at the bar now, plexiglass barrier – patrons have to be 6 feet away.
- Allowed to use laminated menus again.

L. Thuot asked about the extension of premises program. M. Zammuto discussed the Governor’s approval for municipalities to expand the outdoor dining program and the Town’s efforts to safely provide an option to extend the program.

K. Pawluconek discussed mask enforcement. Staff has been fielding mask related complaints has communicated verbal enforcement, written letters of redirection and issued fines regarding mask wearing at places of business.

The board discussed how they can advocate for mask wearing during this pandemic. Suggestions included reaching out to the schools, Council on Aging, and increase signage. Suggestions also included regular social media updates and focusing on the bike path. The board also discussed how successful the Farmers Market was this year in practicing social distancing and mask wearing/enforcement.

The Board discussed a citizen idea regarding closing a portion of a street to facilitate a socially distanced free play time for Maynard children. The resident raised concerns about the negative impact of social isolation. The board recognized the residents concern regarding social isolation and shared the same concerns. At this time, the board stated that they could not support a request for a free play event or series of events. Avoiding large gatherings is imperative to stopping the spread of Covid-19 in our community and although this type of event might be on the smaller side to start, enforcement could present a challenge.

5. Halloween Guidance

The board discussed the upcoming Halloween holiday. The downtown trick or treat event sponsored by the Assabet Valley Chamber of Commerce has been canceled. [The Center of Disease Control has listed traditional trick or treating as a high-risk activity.](#) The board discussed upcoming state guidance and agreed to promote state best practices and health tips with the public. K. Pawluczonek emphasized the need for a statewide or regional approach because if one community “cancels” trick-or-treating, there is a high likelihood that residents would participate in these activities in surrounding communities. The board requested that staff post state guidelines when they are established regarding holiday activities.

6. EEE Update

EEE is on the decline. The weather change has been helpful in shortening the EEE season.

7. Additional Business

GreenStar Herbal has applied for a BOH permit for the recreational marijuana dispensary to be located at 24 Main St. The Board asked staff to invite the owner to the next meeting (October 27.)

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by K. McMillan to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 PM. The motion was seconded by Lisa Thuot and approved unanimously.

Minutes approved 11.24.20