

Town of Maynard

Board of Health

Meeting Minutes – July 27, 2021

The Maynard Board of Health (BOH) held their scheduled meeting on Tuesday, July 27, 2021, in-person at the Maynard Town Hall, located at 195 Main Street. Kathy McMillan, Chair, and Jodi Larkin, Member, were present. A roll call vote was completed. Also in attendance were Kelli Calo, Director of Hudson Public and Community Health, Meghan Zammuto, Assistant Town Administrator, and Orian Greene of Green Maynard.

I. Call Board of Health Meeting to Order

A motion was made by K. McMillan to open the Board of Health Meeting at 6:32pm, which was seconded by J. Larkin. The motion was supported unanimously via a roll call vote.

II. Health Agent Update

- a) Introduce Kelli Calo, Director of Public and Community Health, Hudson: Kelli Calo was introduced as she will serve as the Acting Maynard Health Agent due to Kelly Pawluczzonek's resignation. Maynard has contracted with Hudson for 2 months while the town explores options for a new health agent.
- b) Job Description and Hiring Update: M. Zammuto discussed the new health agent position, which is currently only an 8-hour/week position. Initially, the BOH discussed a 19 to 20-hour health agent position with M. Zammuto. However, upon further consideration of all the job tasks, the BOH is now requesting a full-time health agent position. There is too much work for a part-time employee, especially given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which includes learning and using the permitting system, managing grants, housing issues/complaints, inspections, public outreach, etc. A motion was made by K. McMillan for a full-time health agent, and this motion was seconded by J. Larkin. The motion was supported unanimously by a roll call vote. K. Calo will help M. Zammuto with writing the memo to the Town for this request.
- c) Recent Complaints and Trends: There were 11 housing issues in the past month, including situations of hoarding in excess; three cases were reported to the BOH by EMS staff. One owner was transported to hospital, and cannot return until their house is cleaned out. Two owners will not allow the BOH in their homes to inspect. The BOH had a discussion that Maynard needs to work on investigating sources to get help people in need, such as Minuteman senior services, resources to help families. People have also been calling the Town/BOH with noise complaints (specific locations were not noted). Maynard does not have any noise bylaws, and the State is reportedly not backing/supporting towns with noise bylaw complaints. Maynard does not own any equipment for testing noise levels.

III. COVID-19 Update

COVID-19 cases are on the rise in the state. There were 5 confirmed and 3 probable cases in Maynard. J. Larkin questioned what the schools were planning to do regarding masks, but there was no decision as of yet. K. Calo explained that the state decides mandates, but the town (BOH) can make added mandates. The BOH does use the Maven system at this time, but the hired health nurse from Emerson Hospital uses it. The number of positive COVID-19 cases does not list whether persons are vaccinated or

not. The Delta variant is a highly contagious form, more detrimental for non-vaccinated people. Maynard has a high vaccinated rate for citizens, averaging 82% up to 95% depending on age.

IV. Town Meeting Recommendation

- a) The Maynard Special Town Meeting is scheduled for 10/18/21 at this time for indoors at Fowler School. Questions came up as to whether the town should consider doing an outdoor town meeting versus an indoor meeting. The matter was discussed, and K. McMillan made note that that Delta variant is on rise, and is sure to continue during the fall. Other BOH members agreed, so a motion was made by K. McMilian to suggest the Special Town Meeting be held outdoors if possible due to the recent rise in COVID-19 numbers, which was seconded by J. Larkin. The motion was supported unanimously by a roll call vote.

V. Green Maynard Citizens Petition Discussion

Orian Greene of Green Maynard discussed the wish to bring the plastic bag and polystyrene ban to the Special Town Meeting in October. She explained the plastic bag ordinance has been before the state since 2011, but it keeps getting pushed aside. According to Green Maynard, 144 MA cities/towns have plastic bag bans in place, and 52 cities/towns in 12 counties have polystyrene bans. She noted that hot and/or fatty foods can cause chemicals to leak into food, and polystyrene cannot be recycled. Green Maynard has been approaching businesses in town to educate & request letters of support. They are offering to 'roundup' good alternatives for businesses, (there are 57 businesses in Maynard). Polystyrene that is packaged out-of-town will be allowed, but it cannot be package in town (i.e. in town supermarkets). It is more expensive for businesses to use non-polystyrene packaging/containers. Orian mentioned there is also a concern for small businesses/restaurants with English as a second language and understanding concerns. So far, Green Maynard has received 23 yes (in favor) and 4 no (not in favor) from businesses, and there were 16 callbacks not answered. Green Maynard is looking for BOH endorsement of these 2 bylaws. J. Larkin questioned if the state actually passes a bylaw, would that take precedence over towns? K. Calo said yes. The BOH discussed after Orian Greene left the meeting. K. Calo explained that inspections for the polystyrene is extensive and time consuming. A motion was made by K. McMillan for the BOH to support the plastic bag ban only at this time, as this is easy for the BOH to inspect and support; this was seconded by J. Larkin. The polystyrene ban was not supported at this time because there is no full time Health Agent in Maynard to enforce or inspect businesses. However, the BOH will revisit the polystyrene ban at a later date. The motion to support the plastic bag ban was supported unanimously by a roll call vote (from J. Larkin and K. McMillan).

VI. MetroWest Public Health Collaborative discussion and update

This update was provided by K. Calo. K. McMillan had signed the contract to join the collaborative prior to this meeting. The Collaborative consists of Hudson and 6 communities. They are in process of hiring a Director, Sanitarian, Nurse and Epidemiologist. They will work on grants, etc. for the collaborative, and Hudson staff will serve the entire region. They are looking for COVID-19 staff of 5 part-time nurses to conduct contact tracing (telephonic). Previous contact tracing was done through Partners Health and it was overwhelming, cases got lost in the shuffle, etc. In the future, contact tracing may come through the towns directly.

VII. Approve meeting minutes of previous meeting

No meeting minutes were available for approval.

VIII. Adjournment

The next BOH meeting was changed due to vacations, and is now scheduled for Tues., August 31, 2021 at 6:30pm. K. McMillan made a motion to adjourn the BOH meeting at 8:02pm. The motion was seconded by J. Larkin. The motion was supported unanimously by a roll call vote.

Signatures:

Kathy McMillan

Kathy McMillan, Chair

(N/A - Not Present for this Meeting)

Lisa Thuot, Vice Chair

Jodi Larkin

Jodi Larkin, Member