



TOWN OF SHREWSBURY

Richard D. Carney Municipal Office Building
100 Maple Avenue, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545

Date: September 18, 2020 – **REMOTE PARTICIPATION**
To: Board of Health
From: Kerry Stockwell, Administrative Assistant
Re: Board of Health Meeting Minutes

REMOTE PARTICIPATION ATTENDANCE:

Stephen Vigeant, Jennie Fishman, and Dr. George Abraham – Shrewsbury Board of Health
Phil Leger and Jennifer Nakijoba - Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance (CMRPHA)
D.J. Wilson – Tobacco Control Director / Public Health Liaison for the MA Municipal Association (MMA)

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Micah Blondeau - CMRPHA

Confirming Member Access: As a preliminary matter, this is Stephen Vigeant, Chair of the Shrewsbury Board of Health. Please permit me to confirm that all members and persons anticipated on the agenda are present and can hear me.

- Members, when I call your name, please respond in the affirmative.
Dr. George Abraham – Affirmative / Jennie Fishman – Affirmative
- Staff, when I call your name, please respond in the affirmative.
Kerry Stockwell – Affirmative
- Anticipated Speakers on the Agenda, please respond in the affirmative.
Phil Leger – Affirmative / Jennifer Nakijoba – Affirmative / DJ Wilson - Affirmative

Introduction to Remote Meeting: Good morning. This Open Meeting of the Shrewsbury Board of Health is being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker’s Executive Order of March 12, 2020, due to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of the “COVID-19 Virus.”

In order to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 Virus, we have been advised and directed by the Commonwealth to suspend public gatherings, and as such, the Governor’s Order suspends the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible *physical* location. Further, all members of public bodies are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely.

The Order, which you can find posted with agenda materials for this meeting allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting.

Ensuring public access does not ensure public participation unless such participation is required by law. This meeting will not feature public comment.

For this meeting, the Shrewsbury Board of Health is convening by telephone conference as posted on the Town’s Website identifying how the public may join.

Meeting Business Ground Rules: We are now turning to the first item on the agenda. Before we do so, permit me to cover some ground rules for effective and clear conduct of our business and to ensure accurate meeting minutes:

- The Chair will introduce each Board Member or Staff Member who has the lead role for this particulate item or guest/speaker associated with this item on the agenda. After they conclude their remarks, the Chair will go down the line of Members first and then to staff members, inviting each by name to provide any comment or questions. I will then call upon the members to offer a motion and then for a second. Please hold until your name is called. Further,
 - Please remember to mute your phone or computer when you are not speaking.
 - Please remember to speak clearly and in a way that helps generate accurate minutes.

For others in attendance that are expected to present:

- Please hold until your name is called to present.
 - Please remember to mute your phone or computer when you are not speaking.
 - Please remember to speak clearly and in a way that helps generate accurate minutes.
 - After your presentation, members of the Board will be given the opportunity to ask questions.
- Finally, each vote taken in this meeting will be conducted by roll call vote.

AGENDA

1. Call to order. The meeting was called to order at 8:08 a.m. by Stephen Vigeant.

2. Review and approval of Minutes from the August 21, 2020 Board of Health meeting.

On a motion made by Dr. George Abraham, seconded by Jennie Fishman, and on a roll call vote; Dr. George Abraham, aye, Jennie Fishman, aye, and Stephen Vigeant, aye, the Board of Health voted unanimously to approve the Minutes from the August 21, 2020 Board of Health meeting. Approved 3 – 0.

3. Review and Act on updating Local Tobacco Regulations.

Steve Vigeant stated that the Board is proposing to update the existing local tobacco regulations to the current State regulations. The Board is in receipt of a draft from D.J. Wilson of MMA. He asked if D.J. was available and D.J. responded yes. Steve Vigeant had gone through all of the yellow highlighted changes from the State and does not see any issues.

D.J. Wilson explained that there are two (2) items need to be addressed by the Board of Health. A couple of meetings ago, the Board was asked if they were interested in banning adult smoking bars. At that time, the Board did not want to address it in Shrewsbury.

Question: Is the Board still ok with that?

Answer: Yes. The Board is tabling the smoking bar discussion for now.

Question: Has the Board considered holding a Public Hearing.

Answer: Yes.

D.J. Wilson referred to the Definition section of the of the adult-only retail tobacco stores which speaks to a distance restriction in terms of twenty five (25) to five hundred (500) feet sales of tobacco permit. This would ensure that the sale of food and the sale of tobacco be two (2) completely different businesses. Example: it was discovered that there were instances of stores that would have a wall divider (half convenience store and half tobacco shop). The inclusion of this sentence would make sure that that cannot happen (a store cannot open within a store). This would require a vote from the Board of Health. The Board would have to figure out the distance requirement. D.J. Wilson said the lowest amount is twenty five (25) feet and that makes the most sense.

Question: Is twenty five (25) feet the recommendation?
Answer: Yes.

Steve Vigeant asked the Board if they were in agreement with moving forward with this proposed change. All Board members were in agreement.

D.J. Wilson will refine the draft to reflect the changes and one clean copy (signable) draft and will send it to the Board to be presented at a Public Hearing. He would be happy to attend, please inform him of the date and time.

Steve Vigeant suggested that when they get to the review the meeting schedule portion of the agenda, to hold both a Public Hearing and a regular Board of Health meeting back to back.

Question: Does the Board want to discuss when it's time to review the meeting schedule portion of the agenda?
Answer: Yes.

At this time, D.J. Wilson left the call.

4. Review and Act on the Report from the Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance (CMRPHA).
Phil Leger provided the following updates:

COVID-19 - Stop the Spread test sites have been extended until October 2020. The City of Worcester is currently in the red due to increased positivity rate. To learn more about Stop the Spread, please visit: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread>

Public Health Nurse Position - The CMRPHA was unsuccessful in securing a part-time, six (6) month position. The funding will be reallocated to other parts of the team.

Flu Clinics - Town of Shrewsbury is hosting a flu clinic for employees only on September 21, 2020 and September 29, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. All employees are encouraged to get one. Governor Charlie Baker is urging everyone to get a flu shot.

Special Enforcement Team – Governor Charlie Baker created a new COVID enforcement team to assist “red” designation communities with enforcement of problem establishments (i.e. frequent complaints on lack of masks, social distancing, etc.) in particular, those who hold alcohol licenses. The group is comprised of EOPPS, DOLS, ABCC and others. This team will assist yellow communities if flagged. This is a welcome and needed resource as is the DLD who are beginning to issue warnings and fines for challenging establishments such as barber shops, gyms, or other types of businesses.

Thank you - Kerry Stockwell was acknowledged for keeping up with all materials being sent out and the multiple complaints.

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) - We're doing ok with EEE this season. The Health Department continues to push out communication on how to prevent mosquito bites. Cold temperatures will keep mosquito activity down.

Public Health Nurse and Emergency Preparedness Teams - Both teams are extremely busy.

COVID-19 Vaccine - We're starting to receive information from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) on COVID-19 vaccine allocation. First responders, medical workers, etc. will be the first to receive the vaccine when it becomes available.

Steve Vigeant asked the Board if they had any questions.

Question: Are we pushing the flu vaccine already?
Answer: The CMRPHA has been disseminating information but it's unknown if a supply of the vaccine has been received yet. Dr. Abraham feels it's in the best interest of public health to obtain a flu shot and the recommended flu vaccine administration would be during the period of October 1 thru March 1. Phil Leger commented that folks are mobilizing and preparing for the flu season. There were no further questions but Dr. Abraham thanked the Alliance for the good work.

Steve Vigeant echoed Phil Leger's sentiments on Kerry Stockwell's efforts in providing the constant COVID-19 updates and guidance to the Board and triaging the complaints.

Environmental Health Data (EH) - Micah Blondeau was not in attendance but Phil Leger updated the Board on his behalf. Very busy in juggling routine inspections, complaints, and on-boarding new food establishments. One existing food establishment has a wholesale permit through the State but is changing their business model to include take-out. The Health Department is working through that with the business owner.

In general, we continue to receive daily COVID-19 complaints. Kerry Stockwell does an excellent job tracking the complaints and reaching out to the establishments. Fifty two (52) inspections have taken place since the last Board of Health meeting that was held on August 21, 2020. Micah Blondeau, Julie VanArsdalen, and Danielle Edmands have been keeping up with food and septic inspections. There is an uptick in septic-related review and inspections due to contractors and homeowners wanting the jobs completed before the cold weather sets in. We are seeing this across all the Alliance towns. This body of work will continue until the ground freezes. Kerry Stockwell does an excellent job in keeping all of the Health Agents up-to-date on when inspections are needed, etc.

Shrewsbury Farmers Market - The organizers have done a great job in enforcing all COVID-19 protocols. They have kept the vendors and customers safe during this unprecedented time. A new food vendor called Cottage Goddess will be participating the last two (2) weeks of the markets offering jams and jellies. Special thank you to all the vendors who have participated in this venue.

Shrewsbury Food Truck Night - The Health Department has been networking closely with the organizer to ensure all paperwork, fees, inspections, and permits are in order. Typically, there are the same two (2) mobile food vendors each Thursday with one (1) new mobile food vendor each week. Micah Blondeau has been inspecting and permitting as each week progresses.

- 5. Review meeting schedule.** The next scheduled Board of Health meeting will be held on Friday, October 23, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. via Remote Participation. A Public Hearing will immediately follow regarding proposed changes to the local Tobacco Regulations.

At this time, Steve Vigeant referenced an email that was sent to the Board of Health from Sanam H. Zaer of 8 Jamie Lane, Shrewsbury declaring racism a public health crisis in Shrewsbury and asked the Board if they would like to discuss as an agenda item at a future Board of Health meeting. Dr. Abraham and Jennie Fishman were all in agreement that this topic is highly worthy of discussing. This agenda item is tabled for a November Board of Health meeting.

- 6. Adjourn.** Dr. George Abraham made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 a.m. On a motion made by Dr. Abraham, seconded by Jennie Fishman and on a roll call vote; Dr. George Abraham, aye, Jennie Fishman, aye, and Stephen Vigeant, aye, the Board of Health voted unanimously to approve. Approved 3 – 0.

Referenced Materials

- Board of Health Meeting Minutes – August 21, 2020
- Regulation of the Shrewsbury Board of Health Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products – Effective January 1, 2020
- Sample Regulation Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products – not dated
- Monthly CMRPHA Updates – September 2020

- Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis in Shrewsbury – Email from Sanam H. Zaer, 8 Jamie Lane, Shrewsbury
- Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A § 20 – dated March 12, 2020