

BOARD OF HEALTH
Emergency On-Line Zoom Teleconference, City of Northampton:
<https://zoom.us/j/547347182>
April 16, 2020 Minutes

BOH Members Present: Joanne Levin; Suzanne Smith; Cynthia Suopis; and Laurent Levy

BOH Members Absent: None

Staff: Merridith O’Leary, Director; Melissa Roberts-Cote, BOH Clerk, and Attorney Alan Seewald, City Solicitor

Staff Absent: None

Meeting opened April 16, 2020 at 5:35 p.m. by Joanne Levin

I. Public Comment Session: No Virtual Waiting Room Participants; There was a letter that was submitted regarding the River Valley Co-Op and disinfecting chemicals that are being used that may be toxic.

II. Review Minutes

A. Meeting Minutes from February 16, 2020.

Motion: Approved as amended: Motion made by Cynthia Suopis to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Laurent Levy. Suzanne Smith abstained (3-0 with 1 abstention).

B. Meeting Minutes from March 20, 2020.

Motion: Approved as amended: Motion made by Laurent Levy to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Cynthia Suopis. All were in favor (4-0).

C. Meeting Minutes from March 25, 2020.

Motion: Approved as amended: Motion made by Cynthia Suopis to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Suzanne Smith. All were in favor (4-0).

D. Meeting Minutes from April 2, 2020.

Motion: Approved as amended: Motion made by Cynthia Suopis to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Laurent Levy. All were in favor (4-0).

III. Farmers Markets

A draft of Mandatory Policies and Procedures for the Farmers’ Markets in the City of Northampton written by Attorney Seewald and Director O’Leary was reviewed by the Board. Director O’Leary incorporated the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) regulations into the draft. Dairy and meat products were discussed. Director O’Leary said these items would require a permit and inspection if they were included to the list of items that could be sold on Farmers’ Markets. Other items recommended for exclusion were flowers, baked goods, and other processed goods. Board members were asked to submit comments on the

draft to Director O’Leary. Cynthia Suopis and Director O’Leary will schedule a meeting with the Farmers’ Market managers to discuss the draft Policies and Procedures. The Farmers’ Market managers will be required to monitor the markets and ensure the vendors and the public adhere to the regulation.

III. Updates: Health Orders Passed by Director O’Leary

- City of Northampton Mandatory Policies and Procedures for wearing a mask or face covering Order went into effect on April 16, 2020 at 12:01 a.m. The Health Department has 965 requests for face coverings to date. The Health Department has partnered with Cooley Dickinson Hospital in taking donations for face masks, laundering them and distributing them to the public
- Director O’Leary provided the Board with an update on the shelter at the Northampton High School. The shelter has 50 people and is at full capacity. Director O’Leary advised that anyone in the shelter who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 is going to Cooley Dickinson Hospital for testing. Tapestry Health has offered various services to the shelter residents. The shelter now has a case manager Kate Kelly, NP.
- Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) has taken over the 68 rooms in the Quality Inn & Suites for temporary emergency shelter for the homeless testing positive for COVID-19 in the County. People are allowed entrance to the Quality Inn & Suites if a physician has confirmed they were positive and has requested them to isolate.

Meeting Closed: Motion to Close Meeting: Motion made to close the Board of Health meeting by Cynthia Suopis, seconded by Suzanne Smith, all in favor (4-0)

Meeting closed at 6:56 PM.

The next scheduled Board of Health Meeting: April 23, 2020

Melissa Roberts-Cote, BOH Clerk
