

BOARD OF HEALTH

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81603950910?pwd=RWtCQVRlVlFZb09pT2FLUFTbUVkZz09>

May 12, 2022 Minutes

BOH Members Present: Dr. Joanne Levin; Dr. Suzanne Smith; Dr. Cynthia Suopis; Dr. Laurent Levy, and Dallas Ducar, NP

Staff: Merridith O’Leary, Director Kelly Constantine, BOH Clerk; Vivian Franklin, RN; Amy Hutchins, Assistant Director

This meeting was conducted on Zoom. The meeting was recorded.

Public Comment Session: Dr. Levin announced that public comments would be limited to two minutes per person. One member of the public made comments.

I. Meeting opened May 12, 2022 at 5:35 pm by Dr. Levin.

Motion: Motion made to open the meeting by Dr. Suopis, seconded by Dr. Smith. All in favor (5-0).

II. New Business

- COVID Road Map for Northampton – Dr. Levin introduced the topic of what metrics should the Board be looking at in determining how to make recommendations to the public. Also discussed was the need for a communication plan and a better way to have our recommendations heard by the public. Director O’Leary will discuss with the Gazette the possibility of the Health Dept having a regular monthly column, as Hampshire Hope does.
- Department Updates – Director O’Leary discussed the reorganization of the department that the Mayor presented at the May 5, 2022 City Council meeting. The department will become the Health and Human Services Department with the Community Care Department under that umbrella.
- Resignation - Dr. Levy announced his resignation from the Board effective May 31, 2022. Dr. Levy thanked the Board and the City for the opportunity to serve over the past four years.
- COVID Updates – Vivian Franklin, RN reviewed local data. COVID and flu are on the rise.

III. Old Business

- Senior Center Vaccination Policy – Amy Hutchins discussed results of a brief survey sent to Senior Center members. The board discussed the current mandate.
Motion: Motion made to lift the vaccination mandate for the Senior Center by Dr. Smith, seconded by Dr. Levy. All in favor (5-0).
Amy Hutchins will inform the Senior Center of the decision and include the recommendation that high-risk individuals continue wearing masks indoors, such as KN-95s or N-95s.
- Ventilation Update – Dr. Levin, Amy Hutchins, Professor Rich Peltier (UMass professor of public Health and Health sciences) and Josh Yearsley (community volunteer) formed the Ventilation Taskforce and held their first meeting. A presentation will be made at a future Board meeting.

IV. Review Minutes

A. Meeting Minutes from April 21, 2022.

Motion: Approved as amended: Motion made by Dr. Levy to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Dr. Smith. All were in favor (5-0).

Meeting Closed: Motion to Close Meeting: Motion made to close the Board of Health meeting by Dr. Levy, seconded by Dr. Suopis. All in favor (5-0).

Meeting closed at 7:42 PM.

The next scheduled Board of Health Meeting: May 25, 2022, and the following meeting dates have been set June 23, July 28 and August 18.

Kelly Constantine, BOH Clerk

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Meeting Document List

The following documents were available to the Board of Health during their scheduled meeting.

These documents are available for review at the:

Northampton Health Department, 212 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060

- Meeting Agenda
- April 21, 2022 Minutes