

BOARD OF HEALTH
[Zoom Link to 7/28/22 Meeting](#)
July 28, 2022 Minutes

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

BOH Members Absent:

Staff: Merridith O’Leary, Commissioner; Kelly Constantine, BOH Clerk; Amy Hutchins, Director Environmental Health; Megan Ward Harvey, Epidemiologist

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. Several members of the public made comments.

I. Meeting opened July 28, 2022 at 5:39 pm by Dr. Levin.

Motion: Motion made to open the meeting by Dr. Smith, seconded by Dallas Ducar, NP. All in favor (3-0).

II. New Business:

- **Introduction: Megan Ward Harvey, Epidemiologist** – Commissioner O’Leary introduced Megan Ward Harvey, who will be taking over the COVID dashboard.
- **Presentation: Weekly COVID Dashboard** – Megan Ward Harvey discussed the local COVID data and introduced the new dashboard. She will denote the difference between the CDC county risk levels versus transmission.
- **Monkey Pox Communication** – Commissioner O’Leary stated that the World Health Organization (WHO) had declared it a Public Health Emergency of International Concern and the Northampton Department of Health & Human Services was monitoring the status around the Commonwealth. Dallas Ducar shared an informational fact sheet that Transhealth put together with destigmatizing language. This is being disseminating to patients and other community partners. Nurse Ducar will draft a letter for the Hampshire Gazette about monkey pox.
- **General Communication Plan for Public Education and Community Outreach** - Commissioner O’Leary discussed the platforms that are used to disseminate communications to the public.
- **Wastewater Testing for COVID Activity** – Commissioner O’Leary discussed the early wastewater testing done by Biobot. Commission O’Leary has asked and received approval from the MA Department of Public Health to fund wastewater testing through June 2023.

III. Old Business:

- **Mask Advisory** – Dr. Levin explained the difference between an advisory and a mandate. The Board had previously published a mask advisory as a recommendation for all folks who wanted to protect themselves from COVID. The recommendation was that they should wear a well-fitting mask when in crowded indoor spaces.

- **Ventilation Project Update** – Dr. Levin discussed the next steps in the project. The Task Force met with Amy Cahillane of the Downtown Northampton Association to discuss how to leverage the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money the City has received and what is earmarked for small businesses. The primary plan is to focus on bars and restaurants because those are places where people can't mask.

IV. Department Updates: Commissioner O’Leary updated the Board on the recently filled positions on the Prevention Team. She has interviewed candidates for the vacant Public Health Nurse position. The Community Cares Department will be hiring first responders, a social worker and administrative assistant.

V. Review Minutes

A. Meeting Minutes from May 25, 2022.

Motion: Approved as amended: Motion made by Dallas Ducar to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Dr. Smith. All were in favor (3-0).

B. Meeting Minutes from June 8, 2022.

Motion: Approved as amended: Motion made by Dr. Smith to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Dr. Levin. All were in favor (2-0, Dallas Ducar abstained).

C. Meeting Minutes from June 23, 2022.

Motion: Approved as amended: Motion made by Dr. Smith to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Dallas Ducar. All were in favor (3-0).

Meeting Closed: Motion to Close Meeting: Motion made to close the Board of Health meeting by Dr. Smith, seconded by Dallas Ducar. All in favor (3-0).

Meeting closed at 7:00 PM.

The next scheduled Board of Health Meeting: August 18, 2022 (if needed), September 15, 2022
Kelly Constantine, BOH Clerk

BOARD OF HEALTH

Date: July 28, 2022

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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
- May 25, 2022 Minutes
- June 8, 2022 Minutes
- June 23, 2022 Minutes