

Board of Health

City of Greenfield Board of Health Meeting

Wednesday, March 8, 2023 (\*Rescheduled from 3/1/2023)

20 Sanderson Street, Greenfield, Massachusetts 01301

5 – 6 p.m.

Chair Statement: This meeting is not being recorded by the City of Greenfield. If any other persons present are doing the same you must notify the chairperson at this time. The chairperson reserves the right to remove or have removed any person/persons for profanity, threats, or any continued disruption during a meeting.

Presnet: Nicole DuCharme, Alyssa Valbona, Jennifer Hoffman, Sam McIver, Mary Byrne, Charlie Spencer, Jenny Cry, Rachael Waffler.

I. Review of previous month's minutes- Allyssa moved to approve, Sam McIver seconded.

II. Updates

1) COVID/communicable disease update (influenza and RSV)

a) COVID wastewater testing

COVID is varying week to week. Our wastewater results have been very high and very low. We are rating the caution level with a weekly stoplight. Currently we are in the Yellow- Moderate risk.

In February we had a total of 74 lab confirmed/probable cases. This number does not include at home positive tests. So far in March we have had 12 confirmed/Probable cases.

One concerning number is that we had 5 deaths over an 11 day period in February. All of these cases were over 65 years old with preexisting conditions.

Almost 100% of cases in Massachusetts are the XBB variant but it does take about 2 weeks to get the most up to date info.

Hospitalizations have gone up this week.

Flu has been steady, less aggressive than covid. Up to 166 cases and only two in the last month.

2) Aunt Flo – Menstrual inequality program-Megan has provided menstrual products to different areas of the community. For people who cannot afford menstrual products.

3) LUNT property update: grant opportunity (see below).

Working with the EPA about health concerns that can be caused by TCE. Health dept. Recommend Jack, our epidemiologist to help with data, as well as our student Jennifer Seagull. The Mayor does support this research.

### III. DEP and Sewer Drains-

#### IV. Restaurant Updates

- 1) Food Truck permits- Many festivals almost every weekend this year.
- 2) Restaurant Permits- Kobe
- 3) Dunkin Donuts- Complaint of employees eating and drinking while making drinks for customers.
- 4) Magpie- Chimney Fire

Pool Inspections- YMCA-Jennifer

#### V. Housing Updates

56-58 Devens Street- no changes had been made after the report had been sent out. Nicole has been in contact with the tenants lawyers.

#### VI. Academics and Grants

##### 1) Inter-municipal Grant

Positions are posted on the HR website. 1 regional health inspector, 3 part time nurses, 1 clerk

Creating regional public health services, getting new software, budgeting to get to products so that we all can be on the same page. Interviewing currently for the positions above.

2) CDBG Block Grant: Awarded \$25,000 to assist extremely low-income elders with very limited means (no transportation, family) when there is a complaint/concern of rodents or hoarding. Will be collaborating with a social service agency for a social worker to follow these clients closely

*This grant will help elders, hoarders, etc. that don't have the means to make the corrections that we are asking of them. Working with Hope Mcrary from the senior center. Social workers will work with us to continue the help to these people who need it.*

3) Assist the PIP group for the Lunt Project on: EPA research grant on possible health concerns stemming from environmental hazards at the Lunt property (\*this grant is in the application process right now). The Mayor and health department are interested in determining if the contaminants from the Lunt property has caused any specific diseases due to TCE. The City will be assisting with staff by providing an epidemiologist and someone to assist me with research.

## VII. Parking Lot

1) Tabled: Water testing to be done by a certified agency vs. DPW

We need to have the Giardia testing done when the pool is opened. DEP decision. Howard Environmental services in Deerfield will be the lab that is going to be doing the testing.

Alyssa Valbona moved that the town pool e coli testing be sent out to an accredited lab until an accredited lab technician is hired. Sam McIver seconded the motion.

2) Discussion of having the ability to stay hybrid for meetings vs. in-person only (see Granby letter)

3) Local BOH to extend heating and cooling dates so no variance is needed for each individual place. It has been changed to 9/15 to 5/31 (was 6/15)

No variance is needed per the new code.

Permitting for trailers and new codes for living in trailers. Landlord and tenant changes will be released on April 1st.

Permitting for porta potties, will be something that will take place at the end of March. If the porta potty is there for 14 days you will need a permit. \$55.00 for each potty.

## VIII. Public Comment:

Center School, Charlie Spencer would like to discuss BOH decision from prior meeting. Concerns are that staff is going to be handling urine and waste. Separating the urine from the fecal matter may be easy at all times. The Board feels that they need to follow toileting guidelines for the health and safety of the City. Continue porta potty until we decide what training needs to be done to handle human waste.

Meeting Adjourned- 5:59 pm

VII. Review of

1) Initial Water testing to be done by a certified agency vs. DEW  
We need to have the Giardia testing done when the pool is opened. CER decision  
Howard Environmental services in Deshield will be the lab that is going to be doing the

testing.  
Alyssa Veltius moved that the town pool a cell testing be sent out to an accredited lab  
and an accredited lab technician is hired. Cary McVey seconded the motion.

2) Discussion of having the ability to stay hydrated for meetings vs. in-person only (see  
Gandy letter)

6) Local BOH to extend hearing and cooling dates so no variance is needed for water  
individual place. It has been changed to B15 to B21 (was 013)  
No variance is needed for the new code.

Painting for basins and new codes for living in trailers. Landlord and tenant changes  
will be missed on April 1st.

Painting for porta potties will be something that will take place at the end of March. If  
the porta potty is there for 14 days you will need a permit. \$25.00 for each potty.

VIII. Public Comment

Center School. Charlie Spencer would like to discuss BOH decision from prior meeting.  
Customers are still staff is going to be handling this and water. Separating the water from the  
food water may be okay at all times. The Board feels that they may be taking relating  
guidelines for the health and safety of the City. Continue porta potty until we decide on a  
drinking water to be done to handle human waste.

Meeting Adjourned-5:55 pm