The regular meeting of the Board of Health was held on Tuesday, April 26, 2022. Kelly Lamas, Chair; Adrienne DeSantis, Secretary; and Antonio Tavares, Member were present. Office Assistant Tim Fontaine recording the minutes. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Ms. Lamas.

Board members signed departmental bills.

Ms. Lamas provided an update on the upcoming RFR, Shared Services Grant. Mr. Tavares spoke to MHOA and received a lot of valuable information about the RFR. The Town of Warren voted to join the coalition. The Town of West Brookfield is meeting on April 26, 2022 to vote. It would be called the Mill Town Health Coalition. Motion made by Mr. Tavares to join the Mill Town Health Coalition. Seconded by Ms. DeSantis. All in favor 3-0.

Board members discussed a grant available from the MHOA for approximately $31,000. This money could be used for Covid related costs. The money does have to be spent by June 30, 2022. Board members agreed to move forward with the grant.

Mr. Tavares informed the Board about visiting the Vaccine Clinic that was held at Vets Park School. This was the 3rd clinic held by the Town in conjunction with Big Y Pharmacy. It was a great success with 215 vaccines given during the clinic.

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Board members discussed changing meeting nights to the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month. Board members agree to the change of meeting dates. The upcoming meetings will be May 4th & 18th and June 1st & 15th.

Ms. Lamas updated the Board on office procedures for time-off for staff members. There has been a wall calendar purchased to communicate time off. Each staff member also has a calendar on their respective desk showing days off. Staff members will communicate by email going forward to create a paper trail.

Mr. Tavares would like to add to the next agenda a discussion on hiring an additional nurse for the department. Ms. DeSantis would like to see Mr. Tavares develop a plan to see what the needs of the department are before hiring an additional nurse. Ms. Lamas went over the requirements of public health nursing. Pedicures, home visits, and glucose checks do not fall under public health nursing and can be performed by other home health services. Ms. Lamas feels that the nurse should be providing more education for patients, along with connecting patients with outside services to provide assistance with daily routines.

Mr. Tavares would like to find out more information on the role of the Public Health Program Coordinator. There is concern that a lot of time is spent at the Police and Fire departments. Mr. Tavares will set up a meeting with Ms. Matusik to find out more information on the role.

Board members discussed allowing Paulina Matusik to attend a Servsafe training being held on May 10, 2022. Ms. DeSantis and Mr. Tavares would like to know how this training would benefit Ms. Matusik. Board members discussed that by passing the training, it would allow for Ms. Matusik to inspect places in case of an emergency. Motion made by Mr. Tavares to allow Ms. Matusik to attend the Servsafe training. Second by Ms. DeSantis. All in favor 3-0.

There was a request for a Local Upgrade Approval for 30 Sunbriar Lane. Engineer John Kopinsky is asking for the use of a sieve analysis in lieu of a percolation test, a 2-foot reduction to groundwater from 4ft required to 2ft proposed. Motion made by Ms. DeSantis to approve the variances as requested. Seconded by Ms. Lamas. All in favor 3-0.

Motion made by Ms. DeSantis to adjourn the meeting at 6:46pm with Mr. Tavares seconding the motion. All in favor 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne DeSantis
Secretary

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