

Board of Health
Town of Longmeadow
Draft Minutes for 10/24/22
(PROVISIONAL)

Attendees confirmed by roll call:

Dr. Robert Baevsky, Chair
Dr. Richard Steingart, Vice Chair
Dr. Anastasios Angelides, Clerk
Dr. Michele Keane-Moore
Dr. Elliott Greenberg
Finn McCool, Director

Dr. Baevsky convened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

1. The Governor's Open Town Meeting Protocol defining the guidelines for all town meetings conducted by remote means was read aloud. Details regarding the guidelines are posted on the Longmeadow Town website.
2. The minutes of the 6/27/22 meeting were accepted unanimously: Motion by Dr Baevsky, Second by Dr. Steingart. Approved unanimously.
3. Public Comments:
 - a. Mr. Jeremy Duggan: Spoke against the need for universal vaccination of adolescent students. He feels that the vaccine is ineffective and associated with adverse events.
 - b. Dr. Angelides asked whether there is a requirement for vaccination to attend classes. There is not per Mr. McCool.
4. Mr. Paul McNeil: Presented the most recent data regarding the CLOSE initiative. He noted 80% participation of the March 2022 survey of high school students.
 - a. 2022 12th grade class: 11% use substances to cope with stress
 - b. 2022 11th grade class: 17% use substances to help cope with stress
 - c. 10% report severe stress
 - d. 41% Depression, 30% anxiety, 23% eating disorder, 17% suicidal ideation, 13% self-harm
 - e. 80% report close connection with adult at school
 - f. Alcohol use 21%, binge drinking 11%, cannabis 13%, vaping 9%
 - g. 99% report NOT abusing prescription drugs
 - h. Quarterly meeting of CLOSE on December 12th at the LPS central office
5. Melissa Roberts-Cote of the Pioneer Valley Tobacco coalition reported on the goal of the PVC and described a violation at the Maple Road Service Center (sale of tobacco to underage individual) resulting in a fine of \$1,000.
 - a. The owner responded by indicating he is being punished unfairly:
 1. He has no control of what his employee does, despite their training, and
 2. He challenged the identity, based on the description of the employee who allegedly

sold the cigarettes. Feels the process is unfair.

b. Dr. Angelides noted that the BOH is not a legislative body, and is bound to enforce current laws where applicable.

6. Mr. McCool presented the most recent COVID data:

Generally, cases in the 40 to 60 range (PCR positivity) without significant change.

a. There was a discussion about the need for masks. Dr. Baevsky notes that he wears a mask for his own protection. Dr. Greenberg notes that flu and RSV season is upon us, thus masking on a voluntary basis would certainly be reasonable. No change in masking policy is recommended, though the Board recommends endorsing the use of masks as a general measure to protect from respiratory viruses.

b. Dr. Valania recommends that we obtain data regarding incidence of non-COVID viruses to help guide the need for masking. This idea was also endorsed by Dr. Keane-Moore

7. Mr. Larry Tuttle (Architectural Insights) was asked to speak regarding the issue of grease trap variance at the site of the former "Rinaldi's". Would like a variance in order to install a new degreaser within the basement of the facility so as to not disrupt other tenants within that plaza. Disrupting the parking lot in order to place an external grease trap would be a significant undertaking.

a. It appears that cleanliness of the system can be attained by having the system incorporated within the building.

b. Dr. Steingart inquired whether the system drains into the drainage system. The fat layer is evacuated monthly from the tank system to avoid this problem.

c. Dr. Baevsky notes there is no explicit requirement in the regulations that necessitates an internal or external degreaser ("the device is commonly installed externally").

d. Motion to accept: Motion by Dr. Baevsky, second by Dr. Angelides. Passed unanimously, however Dr. Steingart notes his approval CONTINGENT on DPW approval.

8. Mr. McCool notes that there is a request from the schools to provide guidelines for therapy dogs within the classroom.

a. Dr. Keane-Moore asked what the qualifications/training are required to qualify a dog as a therapy dog.

b. Dr. Baevsky notes that there are several grammatical and syntactic errors in some of the guidelines. Also notes that ADA guidelines recognize both dogs and ponies as service animals.

c. Dr. Valania asked about "opt-out" provisions that need to be clarified. There is some uncertainty as to whether the guideline documents indicate the service animal is to be within the classroom or in a separate area. Potential allergy issues need to be clarified.

d. There may also be cultural objections to a dog.

9. Health Department Inspections and Activities Update from Director

- a. Fall Festival was free of any violations
- b. Free COVID tests have been received (1,000)
- c. Town clinics are providing flu vaccines, and home visits to provide vaccines are underway.

10. Site Map; Design Review Application 899-925 Shaker Road

- a. Plans are still provisional

11. Long Range Plan Steering Committee- there is a request to have someone from the BOH participate in the LRPSC. Dr. Angelides volunteered, but would cede to anyone else who is interested.

12. Dr. Baevsky again noted the concern regarding tri-halo methane and halo-acetic acid levels in the town water supply.

- a. Mr. McCool was asked whether any mitigation strategies have been developed. Mr. McCool will investigate and report back.
- b. Dr. Baevsky asked whether there has been any new information regarding the operations of the "Shot Shop" in town. Mr. McCool reports no new information.
- c. A follow-up regarding sanitary conditions for seasonal workers was provided. Mr. McCool reports that the facilities passed inspection. However, Dr Keane-Moore reports that the porta-pots were removed in August before the end of the harvest season, and that workers were therefore without facilities.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm. Motion by Dr. Baevsky, second by Dr. Steingart, passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Tass Angelides, Clerk