

Town of Natick

Board of Health

October 19, 2022 via ZOOM

Meeting Minutes

Present: Karla H. Sangrey, PE, Chair; Peter A. Delli Colli, DMD, Vice Chair; Donald J. Breda, PE, Clerk

Also Present: Michael K. Boudreau, MPA, RS/REHS, Director of Public Health

Absent: none

Call to Order: Chair Sangrey called the meeting to order via roll call, all members present

Citizens' Concerns: none presented

COVID-19 update(s):

Mr. Boudreau said the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MA DPH) data reporting changed so our Health Department Coronavirus webpage has been updated to reflect those changes by providing direct links to MA DPH. Those links include current data for vaccination rates, positive cases and rates as well as wastewater testing.

Ms. Sangrey noted the State dashboard does not reflect data from at home positive tests.

Mr. Boudreau continued updates:

- Natick Public School administration would notify him of any excessive absenteeism in their schools.
- Using a grant from MetroWest Health Foundation a contracted nurse is contacting all reported positive cases to provide advisement of protocols and to answer any questions.
- The department continues to provide free at home COVID-19 rapid test kits.
- Health Department has a limited supply of the Bivalent vaccine from both manufacturers, Pfizer and Moderna. Both will be available at the Community Flu Clinic on October 26, 2022 at the Community Senior Center.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the flu vaccine and the bivalent vaccine can be administered together on the same day. However, in the event of a reaction, doing so may result in confusion as to which vaccine caused the reaction.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it is not necessary to have the same vaccine manufacturer for the bivalent vaccine as was taken for the original COVID-19 immunizations and boosters.

Discussion and Decision: September 20, 2022 meeting minutes

The draft minutes were reviewed.

Dr. Delli Colli made a motion to accept the minutes as presented.

Mr. Breda seconded the motion.

The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Sangrey, yes Mr. Breda, yes Dr. Delli Colli, yes

Discussion and Decision: Temporary Moratorium of Natick Board of Health Chapter 27 Plastic Bag Reduction Regulation, March 2020

Mr. Boudreau reminded the Board that due to the pandemic, they put the Single Use Plastic Check-out Bag Reduction Regulation on hold until such time as the federal, state and local public health emergency was declared over and the Natick Board of Health ended the moratorium.

There was a brief discussion of the 2020 decision and how local merchants are currently handling check out bags.

Dr. Delli Colli made a motion to lift the moratorium and put Chapter 27 Single Use Plastic Check Out Bag Reduction Regulation back into full effect.

Mr. Breda seconded the motion.

The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Sangrey, yes Mr. Breda, yes Dr. Delli Colli, yes

Discussion and Decision: Dissolution of the Natick Medical Reserve Corp

Mr. Boudreau said as of July 1, 2022, the role and work of the local Medical Reserve Corp in Massachusetts has been fully transferred to a regional format that requires the dissolution of Natick's Medical Reserve Corp, which was established in 2006.

Mr. Boudreau introduced Caeli Tegan, MPH, Natick Health Department Sanitarian and Natick's representative to the MetroWest MRC. Ms. Tegan has served on the Transition Committee for Region 4A and is leading the creation of the new MetroWest unit with one other representative. Ms. Tegan also collaborated with the current volunteer members of the Natick MRC Executive Committee to dissolve their current group and helped to transfer them to the new regional unit.

Ms. Caeli Tegan, MPH, Sanitarian and Natick Health Department representative to the MetroWest MRC explained the new program as follows:

- MetroWest MRC consists of volunteers from Natick and six other towns: Hudson, Marlborough, Sudbury, Wayland, Weston, and Waltham.
- An advisory board with one representative from each town's health department will oversee the unit.
- The unit will also have a part time coordinator.
- Members will be credentialed and deployed through an online database run by the state MA Responds program
- There will be no lapse in coverage during this transition.

There was a brief discussion regarding examples of when the MRC has been called upon.

Mr. Boudreau thanked Ms. Tegan for the comprehensive presentation and for the work she has done to assist in the coordination of the program transfer.

Mr. Breda made a motion: With thanks to all the volunteers and Health Department staff members since 2006 I move to dissolve the Natick Medical Reserve Corp.

Dr. Delli Colli seconded the motion.

The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Sangrey, yes Mr. Breda, yes Dr. Delli Colli, yes

Department Update(s):

Mr. Boudreau:

- A number of community clinics are scheduled and underway with both flu and COVID-19 Bivalent vaccines available.
- Katie Sugarman and Lizzy Chalfin have been trained to conduct suicide prevention training for community members. The program is from the QPR Institute whose motto is ‘Ask a Question, Save a Life’. QPR stands for Question, Persuade, Refer. All Health Department staff have participated in the training program.
- Red Ribbon week is from October 23rd to October 31st. This is an annual national awareness week promoting youth substance use prevention. Throughout the week our team will spend time at both middle schools and the high school to engage and encourage students to be drug and alcohol free.
- National Prescription Drug Takeback Day is Saturday, October 29th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. This is a semi-annual event sponsored by the national Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) for local Law Enforcement agencies to provide community members with a safe and secure way to remove unused or expired medications from their homes. Natick drop off locations will be behind the police station and at Wegman’s Supermarket.
- Unfortunately, Caeli Tegan’s last day with the department will be November 4, 2022. She joined us at the height of the pandemic, has been an integral part of team, and will be missed.
- Jessica Cliff, MHA, RS/REHS, Senior Environmental Health Specialist, has applied for a MetroWest Health Foundation (MWHF) grant that will provide funds for supporting emotional resilience in young women. The most recent MWHF Adolescent Survey reflected more stress factors in the lives of young women.

Board Member Update(s):

Ms. Sangrey asked for a follow up on the Selectboard alcohol policy revisions.

Mr. Boudreau said that article has yet to come before Town Meeting, which began yesterday.

Board members request that Paul Carew, Natick Veteran’s Officer be included in alcohol policy discussions with Natick 180.

Next Meeting(s): The next meeting is scheduled to be Monday, November 14, 2022 at 5:00 pm

Adjourn

Mr. Breda made a motion to adjourn

Dr. Delli Colli seconded the motion.

The roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Sangrey, yes Mr. Breda, yes Dr. Delli Colli, yes

Respectfully submitted,

Donald J. Breda, PE, Clerk

Documents at this meeting:
Draft 09-20-2022 meeting minutes
<https://www.mass.gov/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>
<https://www.mwra.com/biobot/biobotdata.htm>