

TOWN OF UXBRIDGE

Board of Health

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RECORDED AND INDEXED
2024 SEP 21 AM 7:59

Minutes of the Uxbridge Board of Health hybrid meeting held on September 20, 2023, at 6:00 PM

Present: Dr. David Tapscott, Chairman; Dr. Joann Lindenmayer, Vice Chair

Also present: Erin Hightower, Health Director; Kaitlin Donahue, Health Inspector Missy Kakela-Boisvert, Administrative Assistant,

Present via zoom - Dr. Cay DenHerder, Member

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uxbridge.zoom.us/j/82011169514>

Meeting ID: 820 1116 9514

Meeting called to order:

The time being 6:00 PM and a quorum present, Chairman Dr. David Tapscott called the meeting to order.

Inspection updates: Kaitlin noted that Jumbo Donuts had changed owners and there were things that needed to be corrected, for example additional hand sinks were installed. She also worked with a new coffee mobile truck that will be doing business in Uxbridge. Erin and Kaitlin went over different inspections and complaints that they have investigated. They range from complaints about a rooster to a marijuana smell from a private home and working with new owners of existing businesses to bring them into compliance. Both met with David Morin, owner of Arrowhead Acres, about permitting events that take place on the property. Kaitlin explained that Arrowhead hosts mainly private events like weddings. According to the food code the catering company needs to register with the Board of Health prior to the event or up to three days after the event. Arrowhead does not have a commercial kitchen and does not prepare or cook food on site. If the event allows the public to attend then the catering company must apply for a one-day food permit.

Missy has scanned a lot of documents and created files that are comprehensive and she has organized paper files and files in the computer. Missy told the Board that it's been helpful to scan these files because it gives her a chance to learn about the department.

Erin has talked with City Hall Systems. This is the program the town uses for online payments. It will be easy to get the Board of Health on that system and it will allow for certain applications fees to be paid online, for example, septic installer, certain food permit application, and septic hauler. Disposal Works applications and septic plan submissions will not be permitted on this program.

COVID and other infectious disease updates: Erin informed the Board the covid levels in the wastewater are at the second highest level since monitoring started. Dr. Lindenmayer added that hospitalizations are going up too. Free covid test kits are available in the town hall, senior center and library for anyone who would like one. Erin explained that the department would not be

able to get covid 19 vaccine anymore. During the pandemic the town had a Massachusetts Covid Vaccine Program agreement which allowed us to purchase the covid 19 vaccine. That has ended. We could purchase vaccine and then try to be reimbursed by insurance companies or we could order free vaccine but that would only be for children. If the Board wants a covid clinic, Erin can try to have the State mobile unit come and do a clinic. The Board would like Erin to pursue that option for a covid clinic.

Shared Service Grant Update Blackstone Valley Partnership for Public Health(BVPPH):

The region has approved a job description for a full-time community health worker which will be great to help with tough housing cases and a part-time community outreach worker. Dr. DenHerder asked if any of the opioid funds can be used for this but, Erin said although they can't, the public health excellence grants do pay for this. They revised the public health nurse job description. Deb Vescera was hired under a different grant for Covid.

Emergency Preparedness Updates: Migrant sheltering has been an ongoing issue in the State of Massachusetts. Currently Uxbridge does not have any locations to shelter migrants. There are 10 communities in Worcester County that have active shelters and these include Leicester, Auburn, Shrewsbury, Sutton, Worcester, Sturbridge, Northborough, Westborough, Gardner, and Westminster. Local boards of health are helping with lead and Tb testing, vaccinations, and some meals.


Minutes: *Dr. Lindenmayer moved to approve meeting minutes for August 16, 2023. Dr. Tapscott seconded and the motion was passed unanimously with a vote of 2-0-1. Dr. Tapscott – aye, Dr. Lindenmayer – aye Dr. Cay DenHerder abstained because she was not present at the meeting.*

Erin let the Board know that when the Tobacco Alliance was distributing the new tobacco regulations, she found one of the establishments selling a flavored product. The establishment is IIF Mart and it's their second violation in a 36-month period. It carries a \$2,000.00 fine and a seven-day permit suspension. They will need to let us know by September the 29th if they want to request a hearing.

Motion to adjourn: *Dr. Lindenmayer moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm. Dr. DenHerder seconded and the motion was passed unanimously with a vote of 3-0-0. Dr. Tapscott – aye, Dr. Lindenmayer – aye, Dr. DenHerder - aye*



David Tapscott, Chairman



Joann Lindenmayer, Vice Chair



Cay DenHerder, Member