

Town of Concord
Board of Health

Minutes of the Meeting
Tuesday, May 18, 2021

1. OPEN MEETING

Dr. Deborah Greene, Chairman opened the public meeting at 7:00 p.m. stating that it was held on the Zoom Platform in accordance with the Town of Concord's Policy Directive and Guidelines on April 1, 2020, as amended. She read a brief statement outlining meeting protocol and noted that the meeting was being recorded and would be available for later viewing on the Town's website. All Board votes will be taken via a roll call.

Roll Call for Meeting: Dr. Greene, Chairman, present
Mark Haddad, present
Jill Block, present
Alma Healey, present
Ray Considine, present

Susan G. Rask, Public Health Director, present
Karen Byrne, Administrative Assistant CBOH, present

Audience: Jane Hotchkiss, Select Board, Liaison; Patty Keane, COA, Liaison;
Anna McKeown, Recreation Director, TOC; Mardi Hutchinson,
Recreation Department

2. PUBLIC HEARING – RECREATIONAL CAMP SITE

Concord Recreational Department – Willard School, 185 Powder Mill Rd

Anna McKeown, Director, Concord Recreation Department met with the Board to request a Recreational Camp Site License for the Willard School. She noted that the camp that was initially interested in using the site had opted out this year, but the Recreation Department felt that since the school was already in use for after school programs and was sufficiently outfitted to meet the criteria for an official Camp Site it would like to move forward with the process for future use.

In accordance with MGL, Ch. 140, s., 32B local Boards of Health may grant "... licenses for recreational camps, overnight camps or cabins, motels or manufactured housing communities located within such city or town..." if the following criteria under section 105 CMR 430.450 are met:

"No person shall operate a recreational camp for children unless it is located:

- a) so as to be accessible at all times during the designated camping season.
- b) where surface drainage conditions create no health or safety hazard.
- c) where approved water supply and sewage disposal facilities can be and are provided; and
- d) where traffic conditions create no undue safety hazards"

Public Health Director Susan Rask stated that all applicable criteria had been met and documentation provided and reviewed by Health Division staff. She noted that the site license did not circumvent separate review of individual camps (entirely separate process) – but, in order to use the facility, it had to be licensed by the Board.

Mark Haddad moved that the Board of Health GRANT a Recreational Site License to the Town of Concord Recreation Department at the Willard School as requested. Alma Healey seconded. All VOTED in favor to APPROVE. (Block, Considine, Greene Haddad, Healey – YES; Motion carried 5-0).

3. DISCUSSION – COVID-19

The Public Health Director advised the Board that the Governor and the State Department of Public Health within the past week had completely changed course on the reopening mandates. Effective May 29, 2021, all Covid-19 restrictions (face coverings, gathering limitations) will be rescinded, and the State of Emergency will be terminated on June 15, 2021. It had been expected and all indications from past weekly meetings with MDPH indicated that it would be more of a phased restriction lifting (July and August 2021).

The Public Health Director asked the Board for input on whether it wanted to follow suit particularly with the Concord specific Public Health Emergency Order “Mandating Face Coverings and Prohibiting Non-Essential Visitors to Concord Housing Authority Properties” – effective May 8, 2020¹

After a brief discussion, consensus was to rescind its local mandate effective immediately and to comply and follow all state mandates as ordered by the Governor and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Mark Haddad moved to RESCIND the Concord Board of Health Public Health Emergency Order from May 8, 2020, effective immediately. Ray Considine seconded it. All VOTED in favor to APPROVE. (Block, Considine, Greene, Haddad, Healey – YES; Motion carried 5-0).

Jane Hotchkiss, Liaison to Select Board asked whether additional input should be made relative to Town Meeting that was organized based upon previous orders. She also mentioned Memorial Day festivities that had been organized with gathering limits. Board members did not feel it necessary to change how anything was going to be handled relative to Town Meeting or any other function that had been scheduled; it was still okay to adhere to face covering and other Covid-19 measures. Mark Haddad stated that businesses and the Town did not necessarily need a Board of Health stamped policy to take a more cautionary approach as things start to reopen. He saw no reason for the Town to give inconsistent messaging from what the Governor and MDPH were implementing at this time. No additional action was taken.

4. BOARD CALENDAR & MINUTES

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be Tuesday, June 15, 2021 (most likely via Zoom).

The Board reviewed the minutes from the January 20, 2021 meeting. Jill Block moved to APPROVE the minutes as submitted. Alma Healey seconded it. All VOTED in favor to APPROVE. (Block, Considine, Greene, Haddad, Healey – YES; Motion carried 5-0).

The Board reviewed the minutes from the March 16, 2021 meeting. Ray Considine moved to APPROVE the minutes as submitted. Mark Haddad seconded it. All VOTED in favor to APPROVE. (Block, Considine, Greene, Haddad, Healey – YES; Motion carried 5-0).

¹ CBOH Order 5/8/20

5. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Jill Block updated the Board on the work that Open Table continued to do all through the Covid-19 pandemic and that she expected it to continue as things start to “reopen” – at least until the end of the school year, she noted that on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday at the First Parish Church services would be available for residents of Concord and Carlisle. Open Table is closely watching the level of demand locally and how it changes with upcoming increases in relief benefits. Ms. Block said that Open Table was looking to expand their “Helping Hands” – medically-tailored meals program, along with their other prepared meals and mobile pantry programs.

6. STAFF REPORT

PHD Rask advised the Board that the Health Division in conjunction with Pell Med Pharmacy were working on the possibilities of holding a regional Covid-19 clinic for all ages or just students; specifics were being worked out. Pell Med has the vaccine and has offered it to the Town. At this time, the Health Director was working out logistics to ensure that it would not hinder or affect potential Regional Services that were being considered (Grants) and create an issue with the State.

The PHD advised the Board that the Town of Concord along with the towns of Carlisle, Lincoln, Sudbury, Bedford and Wayland had applied for a \$300,000 Regional Shared Services grant that would include funds for nursing, environmental inspectors and regional public health communications (to work on public messaging). Public Health Director William Murphy from Sudbury is the lead on the grant and Ms. Rask will advise the Board on the status as it becomes available.

Jane Hotchkiss, Select Board Liaison asked the Board if funds from this type of grant would be utilized to address the mental health aspects and effects of the Covid-19 pandemic as a general public health issue. The schools have done an excellent job with implementing destressing opportunities for students and teachers/employees but she felt that the Town as a whole has an obligation to “step-up” and help residents, young adults, etc. – whether with increased addiction and psychological services or scheduled events with trained facilitators. In her opinion, it had become clear over this past year, based upon some experiences she had encountered that these troubling problems had increased and they were not going to go away. She said that the State was woefully ill-equipped to address them (for example, an adolescent bed in a hospital for a teen who might be hurting themselves could take weeks-months). Her hope was that if a grant was received these issues might be considered as an important regional service. Board members concurred.

Dr Greene asked for a motion to adjourn if there was no further discussion. Alma Healey moved to adjourn. Jill Block seconded it. All VOTED in favor to adjourn. (Block, Considine, Greene, Haddad, Healey – YES; Motion carried 5-0). The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

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May 18, 2021

Respectfully submitted by,

Karen Byrne, Administrative Assistant
Concord Board of Health

Dr. Deborah Greene, Chairman

Mark Haddad, Esq.

Alma Healey, RN

Ray Considine

Jill Block