

Board of Health Minutes

April 22, 2021

Town of Auburn  
Board of Health  
Town Hall Planning Board Room  
104 Central Street, Auburn, Massachusetts

**Members Present :** Eric Otterson, Chairman; Carolyn Griffin, Vice Chair; Lindsay Guittarr, member  
**In Attendance:** Darlene Coyle, Director of Public Health; Eileen Alexander, Asst. Public Health Director; Paula Conway DDIS Clerk, Jordan Bruso, Health Inspector; Aimee Contois, Animal Control Officer

**Chairman Eric Otterson in accordance with the Open Meeting Law , called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.**

**Remote Meeting Participation - Thursday April 22 , 2021 at 6:00pm.**

**Board of Health**

**Join by phone: 1- 224-501-3412**

**Access Code: 236-529-341**

**Join by Computer: [https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/ 236529341](https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/236529341)**

1. **Call to Order - Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.**
2. **Welcome new member :** We have a new Board member tonight, and her name is Lindsay Guittarr. Longtime member, Steve Nordborg stepped down. We would like to thank him for all participation and guidance through the years, his time here will be missed. We would like to welcome our new member, Lindsay Guittarr.

Eric asked Lindsay to give us a brief history of herself and what brings her to the Board.

Lindsay states that she grew up in Auburn, MA, graduated Auburn High School in 2018, and now is a junior at Worcester State studying Public Health & Biology. As an undergrad she is so eager to gain experience and exposure outside the classroom. She is hoping to get that here!

3. **Review Agenda - Add/Remove any items - no changes**
4. **Approval of Minutes - We will hold BOH minutes for 11/19/2019 & 7/28/19 till next meeting.**

Eric Otterson entertains a motion to accept the minutes for September 29, 2020.

**Carolyn Griffin makes a motion to approve the minutes for September 29 , 2020 BOH meeting.  
Second: Eric Otterson                      Vote 2-0                      Lindsay Guittarr abstains from the vote .**

**6:06 Hearings- Rabies Vaccination Exemption Requests- Animal Control Division.**

Aimee Contois states there are three rabies vaccination exemptions request to be voted on tonight.

Debra Pope, 53 Hill Street, Auburn, MA - Owner of "Dolly" a 10yr old spaded female standard poodle. According to the letter from Mt. Wachusette Veterinarian Hospital, Dolly suffers from an adrenal disorder. So they recommend discontinuing the rabies vaccine. The last rabies vaccine we had on file expired April of 2020. Aimee lets the Board know she has had no issues or complaints from this address or dog, and based on the veterinarian recommendation, she has no concerns with this request.

**Carolyn Griffin makes a motion to grant the rabies vaccination exemption for "Dolly", the poodle of Debra Pope of 53 Hill Street, Auburn, MA.**

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**Second: Lindsay Guittarr**

**Vote: 3-0**

Heather Dudko, 27 Old Meetinghouse RD, Auburn, MA -Owner of "Eva", a 10 year 11 month old Australian Shepard. The Veterinarian of Auburn Animal Hospital states Eva has a history of life threatening auto immune disorder called immune mediated hemolytic anemia and recommends discontinuing the rabies vaccine for Eva. No history of complaints for the dog or property.

Eric Otterson entertains a motion to accept the request.

**Carolyn Griffin makes a motion to grant the rabies vaccination exemption for "Eva", the Australian Shepard of Heather Dudko of 27 Old Meetinghouse Rd , Auburn, MA.**

**Second: Lindsay Guittarr**

**Vote: 3-0**

Darleen Wood, 16 Silver Street, Auburn, MA-Owner of "Sid", an 11 yr. old poodle mix. The veterinarian of Paxton Animal Hospital due to the health concerns of the dog, it is in the veterinarian's professional opinion to discontinue all vaccinations including rabies for Sid. The last rabies expired in December of 2020.

Eric Otterson entertains a motion to accept request.

**Carolyn Griffin makes a motion to grant the rabies vaccination exemption for "Sid", the poodle mix of Darleen Wood of 16 Silver Street , Auburn, MA.**

**Second: Lindsay Guittarr**

**Vote: 3-0**

### **6:10pm COVID Updates- Vaccination Clinics & Homebound Clinics**

Update on COVID-19 where we stand. Back in December the State rolled out a plan for COVID-19 vaccination, and if municipalities, doctor's offices or regional collaborative, and different health care providers wanted to apply for vaccine, they were able to. At that time we applied and were approved for vaccine and focused vaccinating our First Responders. Short thereafter, we began vaccinating our senior residents, and then the Auburn Housing Authority, and homebound individuals, some of the most vulnerable in the community. Total to date we have had 16 clinics at the Senior Center & High School along with 4 homebound clinics, giving out over 1300 COVID-19 vaccinations and 30 homebound. Our office has been extremely busy working on trying to get the vaccine out to our community. There has been a lot of calls coming in from people that want to get vaccinated but do not know how to get an appointment, and our staff has done so much to try to calm the sheer panic and assisting them through the vaccine process, over the past four months. The Governor's administration has since decided not to continue to send out vaccine to the local BOH's and put the focus on the State vaccination sites & any large regional collaboratives. We are finishing up with our clinics, but have a lot of people to thank for their assistance with our work. The Fire Department has been wonderful, offering help with paramedics to staff clinics and also to our Board members for support and participation in our clinic effort. The Senior Center has also been so great, for allowing us to set up our Emergency Preparedness equipment and leaving it set up the past few months while we conducted these clinics, helping us make a difference in the community. The Governor's office has issued numerous orders around COVID precautions that we have been working on with our businesses regarding work place standards. On the whole, most of the businesses want to re-open and stay in compliance, and follow the safety standards in the orders. There

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are a couple establishments that have been challenging and we had to issue enforcement. In the past week, the State has opened up the vaccine to children age 16 & over. The Auburn High School has reached out to our Department in regards to holding a Senior Prom on May 15, 2021, and the overview was sent out to you in your packet, along with the guidance documents it would fall under.

Darlene explains the event will take place outside, there will be many chaperones to ensure the public health measures are followed and to meet all safety standards of masks & social distancing. The DESE guidance identifies to hold proms after the school year ends to allow more people to be vaccinated. The Board of Health would not be voting on this event, the Auburn schools are encouraged to work with their local Board of Health for safety standards.

The Board did have some concern on masks being off during the meal and social distancing; and they recommended having the event later in the season, after school closes.

### **6:20pm CMRPC Shared Service Grant Application**

We wanted to make you aware during the Pandemic that we have had a number of funding opportunities come from the state & federal government. Our office has been working with approximately 12 other towns through CMRPC, a regional planning agency, which has been the host to coordinate all the communities. Recently, there was a state grant opportunity that would offer a Regional Inspector & Health Educator to help with the work load for Boards of Health. Since COVID, we have had to switch our responsibilities to handle the needs of the community with the pandemic, and inspections and the normal workload have been challenging to balance with the COVID-19 duties. CMRPC have put together a grant application for a competitive grant process. If it does come through, these positions would be funded by a multi-year regional grant, and can hopefully offer some assistance for our Board of Health. There is still uncertainty on how it will be handled in years to come, and further discussion is needed once we have more detailed information about the funding needs in the future from the towns involved.

#### **A. Director's update**

##### **a) Correspondence**

##### **b) Septic, Well, Housing-**

**c) Animal Control-** Reminder that dog license are due 4/1/2021 late fee's do not apply till 5/1/2021. We currently have 1800 dogs license at this time. Dog park is officially open for everyone to use. There are separate areas for both small dogs and large dogs.

##### **d) Tobacco Control- No update**

**e) Solid Waste-** Yard waste dates have been scheduled starting May 3, 2021 and the yard waste pickup day is the same as the resident's normal trash day and will be four consecutive weeks.

Sharps program has been set up for the past eight years at CVS, however due to the price increase of biomedical waste & the amount of needles being dropped off at the box, we need to make a change to the program. Casella is no longer able to cover the entire cost to pick up the needles, and we cannot get a commitment from the pharmacy. The sharps box has been removed temporarily and we are currently working on moving the box to a new location.

**f) Central Mass Mosquito Control Project (CMMCP)** - CMMC are now taking request from residents if they want to opt out of spraying or if they would like their yard to be sprayed. This can be done on the CMMC website.

**g) Emergency Preparedness** -We have been working with CMRPC & Harrington Hospital who offers a COVID vaccine clinic at the Southbridge Community Center and have been able to send some residents out to the clinics for vaccinations and this has been working out very well.

Darlene would like to acknowledge Antoinette "Toni" O'Leary, she was a Senior Volunteer for the Board of Health and she recently passed away. She was a lovely person and gave us a part of her great heart. Toni volunteered for many years for the Board of Health, and we absolutely loved having her here, she

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always brought a smile to us all. We would like to send our condolences and thank her family, she will be missed here.

**B. Communicable Diseases**

Reviewed by the Board

**Inspections & Events- COVID 19 Emergency Action Response- Update**

Eileen gives the Board an update on the COVID cases for our community. As to date we have had 1533 cases, with 18 active cases, 7 of them will be followed up, and at midnight leaving 11 active cases. She believes this increase was from the Easter holiday gathering. But happy to say the cases are decreasing in our community over the past 4 weeks.

**Eric Otterson entertains a motion to close the hearing .**

**Motion: Carolyn Griffin moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:37pm**

**Second: Linsey Guittarr      Vote: All in favor 3-0**

**APPROVED ON 5/27/2021**