



Town of Agawam

Board of Health

, Massachusetts 01001-1837

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Meeting Minutes

Agawam Senior Center

954 Main Street, Conference Room

March 8, 2023 at 4:00 P.M.

Roll Call – All members, Acting Health Agent, Public Health Nurse and Administrative Assistant.

Documents distributed at the meeting: no documents were distributed

Meeting called to order- Meeting is called to order at 4:12 P.M.

Citizen Speak Time – None attended

Approval of Meeting Minutes –Motion to approve the February 8th meeting minutes was approved with a unanimous vote.

New Business

- Health Department Staff-Lauren Kennedy is now Acting Health Agent until the position is officially posted internally. Melissa Brooks has accepted a State job with a leave date to be determined.
- New Tobacco Places-A new Pride Store is going to be built on vacant lot 395 Main Street near the Dunkin Donuts. They have applied and were issued a Tobacco permit. Also, Agawam Food Inc. is remodeling the former gas station on 325 Main Street. They have also applied and have been issued a Tobacco Permit. The final Tobacco permit was issued to Smoke Vape and Things on 776 Springfield Street. The Town Tobacco Ordinance limits the number of Tobacco permits in town to 30. We have now reached the limit. Chairwoman Fernandez-Largay requested that the BOH members be sent a copy of the town tobacco ordinance that was signed by the city council and is kept on record with the Town Clerk. Finally, the Cigar Room has a new owner. The old owner is staying on until the new owner completes his state licensing as well as his liquor license. At that time, the Cigar Room will be issued a new Tobacco permit left vacant by the former owner. The Board questioned the role of the BOH with regard to Marijuana in Agawam. Ms. Kennedy said cultivation is under the jurisdiction of the Cannabis Control

Commission. Agawam currently has no Marijuana facilities and we're unaware of any ordinances regarding it.

Old Business-

- DPH Performance Standards- Ms Kennedy provided an update from DPHs workforce development team stating that DPH encourages health depts to use the workforce standards as a guide to hiring and supporting workforce development of their staff.

School Nurse Activities

- Vacancies and staffing issues-a nurse interviewed for a substitute nurse, however, she may be interested in the Full Time position. There's currently two applicants that are being interviewed for the open positions. The current nurses are frustrated due to the lack of staff and ongoing issues at the School Department.

Public Health Nurse Activities

- Infectious Disease Cases-COVID for February had 71 and 1 flu case. March to date, COVID had 10 cases and 0 flu. There was an uptick in GI cases with a significant outbreak at the nursing homes.
- Body Art-found out a woman in town was operating out of the basement of her home without proper licensing. She gave mis-information to the City Clerk when she applied for license and also on her permit with the Building Inspector. Currently, she's failed to respond to all attempts made to contact her. Body art including micro-blading is required by the State and Town to be licensed and permitted. She also needs to meet zoning laws, process an esthetician license and a beautician license. A surprise inspection by the Building Inspector and the Public Health Nurse will be made in the near future.

Adjournment- A vote to close the meeting was unanimous at 4:46 P.M.

Lauren Kennedy
Acting Health Agent