



# Town of Agawam

## Board of Health

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Gladys Fernandez-Largay, MD	- Chairman
Mary Jo Safford, NP	- Vice Chair
Mary Lee Bertrand, BSN	- Member
Michael Theroux	- Health Agent
Sherry Petrucci, RN	- Public Health Nurse
Lauren Kennedy	- Sanitarian
Beth Ceccarini	- Secretary

### Meeting Minutes - April 13, 2022

#### Agawam Senior Center ~ 5:00 p.m.

**Attendance** : All members present,

**Documents distributed at meeting** :

-Board of Health Agenda, Body Works Regulation Sample

**Meeting Called to Order** : 5:03 pm. By Chairman Fernandez

**Approval of minutes** : A motion to approve the March BOH minutes was made by Vice Chair Safford and seconded by Member Bertrand. Motion to approve minutes: 3-0.

**Citizen Speak Time** : None attended the meeting

**Old Business** :

**Body Works Regulations** : Sanitarian Lauren Kennedy informed the Board she came up with a draft body works regulations using our current regulations and some from the Town of Framingham. We are trying to strengthen and tailor them to our current and future needs. She passed out a copy for the BOH to look over and make notes for discussion at the May meeting. She gave an overview that would now require a Body works Establishment Permit from the Town of Agawam. That would also require a practitioner's license for each person performing hands on therapy in each establishment. In the case of massage parlors' they are regulated by the State. Each practitioner in that establishment still needs a license from us. Lauren told the Board that they would need to think of which therapies they want to include in the regulations; examples for hands on and off therapies performed on persons and fine amounts. She also told the members that Framingham was chosen as it seemed more comprehensive and will help out in the future as businesses keep popping up, some legally and some illegally. She had spoken to a member of Framingham's Board of Health and asked how the regulations were received and if they appear to be working. The member told her that there were no complaints with the regulations yet by the businesses that perform these services or the BOH members themselves. There was also no problem with the legal aspect either such as City Council or Mayoral disapproval of them. The members thanked Lauren for researching and drafting a set of regulations that they can review and get started on. They are concerned with current and future illegal activities around establishments of this nature. They would like to discuss this further at the next BOH meeting.

**17 Cambridge Street Inspection** : Agent Theroux told the Board a limited receiver was appointed by the court for this property. The receiver had taken care of the emergency portion of the orders and turned utilities on. There will be a Housing Court hearing on this property tomorrow morning. He will know more information after that. He does feel they will want another full inspection after most of the required work

gets done.

### **New Business :**

**70 Giffin Place** : There was a fire at this location. The occupant is safe and escaped the fire. Agent Theroux stated that he, the Building Inspector and the Fire Department needed to condemn the house. The landlord will need to demolish the property. The Health Agent and Building Inspector will be keeping track of the progress made after the permits are acquired. At this point the house is boarded up and secure.

**Beaver Activity:** Agent Theroux told the Board there was lots of beaver activity going on now. Beaver activity falls to the Health Department and beavers are a protected species. He noted that 6 Flags New England had some beaver issues as well. The beaver/s are eating trees that were too close to the rides in the park. The problem is that if the trees fall, they would have no way of knowing which direction it would fall or when it would fall making it very dangerous for park attendees. The park's Maintenance Department is keeping an eye on the situation and will notify us if the situation gets worse. It was recommend to put up a metal fencing around those areas so the beaver/s could not access the trees and do further damage. That would be a costly venture as the park is sitting on many acres. If the situation were to worsen, they would need to take out a Beaver Permit. That permit involves either breaking up an existing beaver dam (our local Conservation Commission would be involved); or trap and euthanize the animal. It is illegal to trap and relocate beavers anywhere in Massachusetts. There is another method of deterrence by using "beaver deceivers" that are basically cages that go around areas getting dammed. These sensors deter them from building or continued building in that area. Some locations which have taken out Beaver Permits and used the 'beaver deceiver" method, seem to be working well. Most time beavers are in areas with just ponds, streams or other bodies of water but very few housing structures or building structures that would be damaged by falling trees.

**6 Flags New England** : Health Agent Theroux and Sanitarian Lauren have done the food inspections at the park before it opened for the season. Now most of the food locations have come up with simpler menus for easy in and out convenience of park goers. He noted the inspections weren't too bad. He noted that they still seem to be having staffing issues for these locations. While the park side is open the water park is not. He is hoping that he and Lauren will be able to do pool inspections and food booths in the water park next month.

**Outdoor Dining** : There is an "outdoor dining" ordinance being worked on including input from the DPW, Police, Fire, Zoning, Health and the Zoning Board of Appeals Departments. They are all trying to come up with a comprehensive and safe ordinance beneficial to all businesses. The State has granted an extension of outdoor dining. So far there has not been much interest by the restaurants for outdoor dining because most of the COVID 19 mandates have been lifted and capacity is back up to 100 %. In considering this updated and comprehensive ordinance we do not want restaurant parking lots used as "dining areas". That was one of the results that came when the State agreed to extend all outdoor dining until late fall. State regulations require bathrooms, sprinklers and safety measures based on the capacity of each building. If all these businesses continued to use their parking lots, that would change all the Building Code enforcements. The State doesn't seem to realize that these restaurants are just adding more dining space and are not fulfilling the other requirements of the Building and Fire Codes. The current ordinance will be enforced this year if any restaurants chose to add seating areas on their grounds. Those and other issues are discussed at these meetings. The Town is trying to only allow places that clearly have extra spaces on their property for proper seating without using their parking lots to qualify for actual "outdoor dining". These locations have the capability of erecting permanent fences or patio/deck areas that are safe and sanitary for their customers to consume food. They are in the draft process now of including all these safety protocols. Once that is complete they will present the updated regulations in the Ordinance to the City Council for approval.

**School Nurse Activities** : Nurse Sherry told the Board that flu cases and upper GI cases were on the rise in our schools. She noted that the Full-Time School Nurse position, vacant since September, has been filled. That was the position at Agawam High School. Our Permanent Part-Time School Nurse has resigned as of 4/15/2022. Also, one of our School Nurses has been out on medical leave since February. That elementary School Nurse position has been filled by our Permanent Full-Time Float Nurse. The position for Permanent Part-Time School Nurse has been posted and interviews will be done next week.

There have been 4 applicants for the position so Nurse Sherry is hopeful one will work out and can be trained by the end of the school year. Negotiations for the School Nursing Contacts will be starting soon. There is still uncertainty if the nurses will move over to the School Department side. They will need to take a vote to see if all or most are on board with the decision to move. Hopefully they will get more information from the Superintendent about what their roles/duties will entail.

**Public Health Nurse** : Nurse Sherry told the members that influenza cases are on the rise. From January to March of this year there have been 29 cases. From April 1-12<sup>th</sup> there have been 57 cases in town. In the Month of March, there were 78 confirmed cases of COVID. She has also worked on a total count of residential deaths due to COVID19:

March - December of 2020 - 91 deaths (residents/long term care facilities)

January - December 2021 - 39 deaths (residents/long term care facilities)

January - March 2022 - 31 deaths (residents/ long term care facilities)

Adjourned: Motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chairman Safford seconded by Member Bertrand. With a vote of 3-0, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

BOH/bc