



# Town of Agawam

## Board of Health

36 Main Street Agawam, Massachusetts 01001-1837  
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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
Beth Ceccarini	- Secretary

Meeting Minutes - December 8, 2021  
**Agawam Senior Center - 954 Main Street at 5:00 p.m.**

**Attendance** : Member Bertrand and Public Health Nurse Sherry absent

**Documents distributed at meeting** :

-Board of Health Agenda  
-COVID 19 statistics update

**Meeting Called to Order** : 5:00 pm

**Approval of minutes** : A motion to approve the November BOH minutes was made by Vice Chair Safford and seconded by Chairman Fernandez. Motion to approve minutes: 2-0.

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

**Old Business: Job Postings** : School Nurse posting: Agent Theroux told the Board members we have a nurse who accepted the position but have not heard anything from the Personnel Department about her returning the acceptance paperwork. We are very much looking forward to a full staff of nurses again. She is slated to start on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Heritage Village** : Agent Theroux told the Board that 2 of the locking mechanisms have been put into place on the doors there finally. He went to the complex to look at the progress they made, if any, and saw the locks. The Association has not contacted him yet about that. He will give them another week or two to make sure they are installed properly and working. He will then speak with Atty. Pikula to make contact with someone on the Association to be sure the locks are operational to the residents by year's end. He stated that would be in current compliance with 2 door locking mechanisms this year and 2 more will need to be installed for next year to be in complete compliance.

**79 Carr Avenue** : Agent Theroux told the Board that the owner did demolish the garage. Agent Theroux was happy with that as the Correction Order stated it needed to be down by December 31<sup>st</sup>. He is now taking a harder look at the owner removing debris and brush from his back yard. He stated there will be another Housing Court hearing in January.

**Inspections** : Agent Theroux is still doing many housing inspections. He has a few more this week. The inspections are at various stages and there will be multiple more on some and others should be done soon.

**New Business : Interviews :** Agent Theroux told the Board he had interviews for several candidates for the Sanitarian position on Tuesday. There was actually 5 candidates but on the last day of posting one was hired in another town. He did find a candidate who was well qualified and had all the licenses required for the position as well as knowing all the protocols for different inspections. She is also a Registered Sanitarian which would be very helpful and she gave a real good interview. There is a salary range issue for her so we are working to try to accommodate the best we can within the budget we were given.

**17 Cambridge Street :** The man that owns the house (deeded to him after his mother had passed away), had his girlfriend move in. When they broke up, he left the house and she stayed. There were some reported questionable activities going on in the house. She is the one they are trying to vacate. The house on last inspection was a mess and nearly destroyed. There is food, animal feces, furniture and other items scattered all over the house. It is unhealthy and unsanitary. They did start procedures to evict her from the house. The Health Department got involved because the water got shut off due to nonpayment. Last week the house was finally condemned for the second time and she is now off the property. The house was boarded up and secured as soon as she left. Hopefully she won't be coming back or trying to sneak in. This has been going on for at least 2 years so it was a very long process. The owner is in the process of selling the property to his boss who will do a thorough cleaning of the property and some renovations.

**School Nurse Activities :**

The "Test & Stay" program at the Robinson Park School is still going on before school Monday - Friday. The numbers of students contracting COVID 19 are going up. There are some issues with school staff as well as school sports. They still need to adhere to the mask wearing, 3 foot distancing rule and extra monitoring of the lunch rooms with both students and staff. The Test and Stay program was overwhelmed last week with the number of students needing tests. There is only one tester for the program. Agent Theroux had to ask some of the nurses if they could volunteer to finish out this week even if they tested in their own schools. This might alleviate most of the people rushing to the Robinson Park testing site and overwhelming them again. A few nurses offered so they will be working this Thursday and Friday to help out. We are hoping to get a new person to help out at the Test and Stay program who will be starting tomorrow. We are actually hoping to bring that second person to a second location and have 2 Test & Stay programs to offer parents. The school nurses do have a break coming just before Christmas until January 3<sup>rd</sup>. hopefully they can rest and get recharged.

**Public Health Nurse :** Agent Theroux stated that Nurse Sherry is still working on town cases and contact tracing. He noted that much of her time is spent helping the School Nurses with the issues they have been having at their schools. He also noted he expected to be busy with COVID well into the February break and beyond. The Board of Health agreed stating it would possibly go into March and later given the fact people will all be inside during their Christmas break and the winter season.

**COVID 19 updates:** The updated COVID 19 statistics forms were passed out to the members. There are 3,385 total cases to date. There are 91 cases on isolation in the public and 1 isolation case in nursing home/senior living facilities. Agent Theroux reiterated that the Health Department will not be doing any COVID 19 booster vaccines for residents and that information was available on the town's website. The members told the Health Agent that it was their hope the Health Department would be fully staffed by the New Year. They stated they were impressed with the volume of health work being done for the residents despite all the obstacles that have been placed in the way. Chairman Fernandez hoped the Health Department could get some time off like the school nurses but wished us some rest and relaxation over the Christmas weekend.

**Adjourned:** Motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chair Safford and seconded by Chairman Fernandez. With a vote of 2-0, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

BOH/bc