

Dudley Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

January 24,2023

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Dudley Board of Health was called to order at 5:39PM by Jennifer Cournoyer, Chairman and the pledge was recited.

***Members present:*** Jennifer Cournoyer -Chairman, Roberta Johnson, Lorri Ducharme

**Also Present:** Camille Griffin Health Agent, George Slingo Title V Agent, Eileen Alexander Regional Public Health Coordinator, Sarah Caplette Regional Public Health Nurse.

**Documents physically identified, discussed, considered, or voted by the Board:**

Town of Oxford Bodyworks Regulations

Framingham Board of Health Bodyworks regulations

2023 Board of Health Schedule of Meetings

**Thomas Revane – Concerns regarding well Regulations**

Jennifer Cournoyer – Mr. Revane has not showed to tonight’s meeting. He was notified two phone calls and an email and George was the one who advised him that he could come before the board. He had some concerns about the regulations but George you are following them the way they should be and I know that you talked with Camille about it. Where he did not come to the meeting to voice his concerns we are just going to keep going the way things are going. I stand behind you 100 percent and appreciate the job you are doing.

**Body Works Regulations**

Camille Griffin – For the town of Dudley we currently have one bodyworks establishment and I’ve been reached out to by one other establishment that is looking to come into town and do body works. These establishments do not fall under the massage therapy that is overseen by the state and we do not have any local regulations to oversee this practice. Bodyworks is basically anything that is not massage but is still physical touch. Example: Acupuncture. They have historically been benefits from public health standpoint to have local regulations. There has been inappropriate behavior in bodyworks establishments and having the regulations gives the board of health jurisdiction to go in and shut them down if something like that were to happen here in Dudley. Without regulations we don’t have any jurisdiction to issue a permit and then revoke a permit if needed.

Jennifer Cournoyer – We have two different towns to look over as our homework. Coming up with regulations we want will take a couple of months. So, we will move forward with that.

**Earth Day Discussion & Planning**

Jennifer Cournoyer – Amanda ordered a bunch of supplies and has applied for the grant through last green valley. We need to choose a date for earth day. The official earth day this year is April 22nd which is on a Saturday. I will need to put in a request to the board of selectmen and talk to Jeff about getting a dumpster. If Amanda can reach out to the school, girl scouts, and Roberta will reach out to the boy scouts. We want to try to get more people involved this year. As soon as the board of selectmen approve the date I will get it to Amanda so we can get the information out to the social media pages.

**Discussion/Updates on Bike Rodeo**

Jennifer Cournoyer – There is not much to update. We have the date June 22nd, we have permission already to be at the strawberry festival to set up a table and advertise. We will need a flyer and make sure we include on it anything with wheels, so they know it’s not just for bikes. We will get something together and get it over to Amanda so she can keep putting it out. We can start reaching out to groups to see if they want to come and have a table have literature, handouts, etc. The next couple of months we will start working on what food we want to have.

Lorri Ducharme – Can we share this with other towns to share as well? It’s open to other towns as well not just Dudley residents.

Jennifer Cournoyer – Absolutely. I don’t know of any other towns who does something like this. So we can give them the literature and maybe they can share it on their forums.

**Public Health Nurse Report/Comments**

Sarah Caplette – I’m the regional public health nurse and I cover Oxford, Dudley, Southbridge, Webster. I’ve been along with Briana we have been covering Maven for Dudley. It’s been mostly a lot of Flu lately. COVID is still high as well. I have seen a prevalence of older adults getting chicken pox. Not Shingles but actual Chicken Pox. A lot of older adults never got the vaccine since that came out in the 90’s. So, we may want to put some information out there on that. It’s very likely that they never had the chicken pox or their antibodies are not there anymore so they get it again. It can be much more severe in older adults and some may end up hospitalized with it. I will get some information to Amanda and we will get it out there just as a reminder that older adults can still get the chicken pox.

Camille – Sarah and I were on the vaccine initiative call through the state. Dudley has been determined to be at low vaccine rates. One thing that the state was asking was good contacts for Dudley representation that may be interested in hosting a vaccine clinic. Every person getting a vaccine through one of these clinics would be eligible to receive a 75.00 gift card. They can also combine it with the flu vaccine. Do we have any other contacts in school that we could reach out to. Maybe the library?

Roberta Johnson – I would reach out to the boys and girls club. They have reached out to me once. I know they have a lot of kids from surrounding town as well as kids in town. The only other thing I can think of is Gentex up the street. They still test their employees and may be interested in holding a clinic there.

Camille – Just to put it out there the gift card initiative is just for Massachusetts residents. Out of state workers can still get the vaccine at one of these clinics they just don’t qualify for the 75.00 gift card.

**Health Agent Report/Comments**

Camille Griffin – The I-Health antigen tests that were distributed by the town. The current inventory we have now has been extended to April 23, 2023. The QR Code Stickers are not up to date with the correct information. I have confirmed with the state and the manufacturer them selves they have been extended through April. Manufacturers website is not correct. If you google IHEALTH and the lot number and it will pull you up to the updated list that will show you the correct expiration date.

Camille Griffin – I wanted to introduce Eileen Alexander. She is the Regional Public Health Coordinator.

Eileen Alexander – I work with six towns Auburn, Oxford, Webster, Dudley, Southbridge, Brimfield. One of our biggest events that we are going to do is a community health assessment amongst all of the towns to see what our highest priority is for each town. The town of Webster is the host. I also do higher end housing for heavy content and trying to find resources for our most vulnerable people in the communities. It’s been a challenge to put together an assessment that fits most of our communities. In Dudley I met with Tri-valley who is one of your highest stake holders. I will be reaching out to others to help determine which direction this health assessment will go in.

Jennifer Cournoyer – I hope you will be in touch with our Council in Aging Director. I think that is the area we need the most help in here in Dudley.

Eileen – They are on the top of our list as well as Police and Fire. They are the ones that are onsite seeing firsthand what is going on in town. The stakeholders that agree to be apart of this assessment are really key to getting the proper data. We don’t want to ask questions to answer we don’t want.

Jennifer Cournoyer – For the past year we have been putting more information out there to the public by getting out in the community.

Lorri Ducharme – We look forward to hearing more from you and seeing where things progress.

Camille Griffin – Lastly for my report we are moving forward with getting a consulting firm in town to do our food inspections. We are in the process of finalizing the agreement with Alsco Food Check Group. This firm has multiple food inspectors. We will have three listed and it will be about two months to get Webster and Dudley caught up. We will send out an introduction letter to the establishments, so they know who it is that is coming in. If they have any questions, they can contact the board of health.

**Approval of Minutes December 5, 2022**

Lorri Ducharme – I make a motion to accept the minutes as they are written.

Roberta Johnson – I second the motion

Board votes – Passes unanimously.

**Approval of Board of Health Meeting Schedule 2023**

Jennifer Cournoyer – We will change the February meeting from the 21st to the 28th. Then we will move the August meeting from the 15th to the 22nd. With those two changes I think the schedule is complete.

Lorri Ducharme – I make a motion to approve the schedule with the two changes.

Roberta Johnson – I second the motion.

Board votes – Passes unanimously.

**Public/Board Comments**

Jennifer Cournoyer – On Monday January 9th the board of selectmen had an evening that the state and town gave out citations for work during COVID. From the Massachusetts state senate, the board of health received an official citation for our work during COVID. The House of Representatives also presented a citation to the board of health. The members each received a citation from the Town of Dudley for all of our work and Roberta received a community service award for the public health nurse during COVID. Roberta stepped up and did a great job during COVID. We appreciate the state and the town recognizing us. It was a trying experience but we got through it and had a lot of support from the police and fire but I think we did a really great job. We couldn’t have done it without great leadership. Even though he didn’t want to be recognized our town administrator kept everything going.

**Adjourn**

Roberta Johnson – I make a motion we adjourn

Lorri Ducharme – I second the motion

Board votes – Passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:24PM

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Jacobson

Board of Health Clerk