



# CITY OF NEWBURYPORT

## BOARD OF HEALTH

60 Pleasant Street  
Newburyport, MA 01950

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**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

### Board & Staff Present:

Lina Matta, Board Member

Julie Esposito, Public Health Nurse

Dr. Richard Tilson, Board Member

Laura Vlasuk, Director of Public Health

### Board of Health Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2024

- I. Meeting called to order by Dr. Tilson at 6:03 pm
- II. Approval of Minutes from February 15, 2024 Meeting. Motion to approve minutes made by Dr. Tilson, seconded by Lina Matta. Motion passes 2-0.
- III. Setting policy for reporting illness to the Board of Health. The board asked the department to look at the wording set at the court house and provide that information at the next board meeting.
- IV. Vlasuk met with Dennis Plazzo Vice President Yankee Home Coming committee earlier in the month. Mr. Plazzo would like the Board to consider extending the agreed fee for Yankee 2023 to Yankee 2024.  
Event Organizer fee would remain at \$100  
Each Vendor would pay a one-time fee of \$250 for the week in addition to a refundable deposit fee of \$500 for cooking vendors and \$100 for non-cooking vendors. Motion to approve fee for Yankee Home Coming by Dr. Tilson, seconded by Lina Matta. Motion passes 2-0.
- V. Director's Report
  - The department was granted 1900 free COVID test, all 1900 have been distributed amongst City Hall, DPS and the Council on Aging. The state is also distributing COVID tests to homes and urges everyone to log on and order COVID tests, these tests will be delivered directly to homes that have placed a request on the United States Post Office web site.
  - Plum Island Coffee has a new owner! They have passed their review, inspection and permit
  - The department was also granted 100 take home sharps containers that are free and available for the public to pick up at the Health Department.
  - Vlasuk is currently working on site plan review for the GOAT.
  - Ms. Vlasuk has scheduled a Blood Drive with the American Red Cross. Blood Drive is May 2 at the Salvation Army from 10am to 3pm.

- Ms. Vlasuk updated the Board on the status of the Greater Amesbury Public Health Excellence Group Grant
- The Board reviewed the grant application and discussed if there is a need for a grant of this magnitude in Newburyport. Newburyport is meeting all standards and was referred to as the Gold standard amongst the towns listed on the grant (Amesbury, Georgetown, Groveland, Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, Rowley and West Newbury). Discussion regarding inspections, nursing and animal control ensued. Newburyport is excelling in all areas and the Board would like continue to evaluate performance prior to deciding to enter into a shared grant that would take up multiple hours of staff time with little benefit to Newburyport. The Board would like to review additional grants to see if there would be a better more profitable fit for the City of Newburyport. Motion to decline Greater Amesbury Public Health Excellence Group Grant made by Lina Matta, seconded by Dr. Tilson. Motion passes 2-0.

#### Nurses Report March 21, 2024

- Miss. Esposito Heart Saver Class on February 13 was so successful that a second Heart Saver class for City Employees is scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup> at Community Center 331 High Street - boardroom.
- Miss Esposito is currently working with the Red Cross to certify us as instructors and become a designated training center.
- Miss Esposito has obtained her MAVEN training

VI. Date for next Meeting, set for May 2, 2024 at 6 pm

VII. Motion to adjourn made 6:58 pm by Dr. Tilson, seconded by Lina Matta. Motion passes 2-0.