

East Longmeadow Board of Health Agenda

Tuesday, February 15th, 2022; 5:00 p.m. at East Longmeadow - Zoom

Board of Health Members Present: Christine Johnston, MPH; Dr. Kathryn Jobbins, DO, MS, FACP; and Rebecca Torcia, RN, BSN

Health Department Staff Present: Tammy Spencer, Health Director; Alix Roncarati, Health Inspector; Renée Suckau, Administrative Assistant

Town Attorney Present: Jesse Belcher-Timme

Topic	Discussion/Action Taken/Decision Made
Call to order and Chair Announcements	Meeting called to order by Chair, Christine Johnston at 6:00 p.m.
Public Comment	No public comment
Executive Session – VOTE to enter Executive Session in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(1), to discuss response to Open Meeting Law complaint, to reconvene in open session.	Motion to leave open session and enter into executive session in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(1), to discuss response to Open Meeting Law complaint, to reconvene in open session made by Christine Johnson and seconded by Dr. Katie Jobbins. Motion passes 3-0
EXECUTIVE SESSION	
Business at hand 1) Addressing Open Meeting Law Complaint	<p>Attorney Jesse Belcher-Timme states that there has been an Open Meeting Law complaint against the Board of Health based on email exchanges on December 30, 2021 and that the Board has decided to read the emails into the record. The email correspondence is read aloud by Attorney Jesse Blecher-Timme:</p> <p>On Thursday, December 30, 2021 at 10:09am from Christine Johnston: Tammy, I can do either day. Are we planning to vote on a mask advisory or mandate? I know both Springfield and Longmeadow just or are about to return to a mandate. If you want to chat beforehand – I know we can't chat or email as a group without violating the Open Meeting Law, but feel free to call me directly at [gives number]. Thanks, Christine.</p> <p>On Thursday, December 30, 2021 at 10:24am from Tammy Spencer: Hi Christine, I was proposing adopting the advisory we spoke about at our last meeting. Town Council felt that a formal vote would be appropriate. With all honesty, I don't believe that we could enforce a mask mandate in the Health Department's current state. With Alix transitioning to the inspector's position, and being without a dedicated administrative assistant, dealing with the complaints and calls would be a full time job. I would support whatever the Board decides, but a mandate would certainly be more than the department could handle right now. For now, I'll get a posting ready for next week – just waiting to see what days the other Board members are available. Tammy</p> <p>On Thursday, December 30, 2021 at 2:45pm from Christine Johnston: Hi Tammy, Sounds good to me. Honestly, most places I've been I've seen nearly everyone masked. You may want to mention the plan to Katie and Rebecca before the meeting and address your concerns about being able to enforce a mandate so they don't get into a discussion that wouldn't be supported by the Health Department. Christine.</p>

	End Correspondence Attorney Jesse Belcher-Timme says that he will draft a response as discussed in the executive session.
Other Business	Ms. Spencer states that there were 88 cases of COVID in the last reporting period, and the waste water testing is showing a similar decline.
Next Meeting Date	The next meeting will be Tuesday March 22, 2022 at 6pm

Motion to adjourn made by Christine Johnston and seconded by Rebecca Torcia. **Motion passed 3-0.**

This listing is reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Rebecca Torcia 2/15/2022
Rebecca Torcia, Secretary