

## East Longmeadow Board of Health Agenda

Tuesday, February 23, 2021; 6:00p.m. at East Longmeadow - Zoom

Board of Health Members Present: Karen Robitaille, R.N. and Christine Johnston, MPH

Health Department Staff Present: Aimee Petrosky and Alix Shipman

Visitor: Aldo Fazio

Topic	Discussion/Action Taken/Decision Made
Call to order and Chair Announcements	Meeting called to order by Chair, Karen Robitaille at 6:00 p.m.
Approve minutes of previous meetings: November 17, 2020	Motion to approve minutes from November 17, 2020 made by Karen Robitaille and seconded by Christine Johnston out of necessity. <b>Motion passed 1-0.</b>
Public Comment	
<b>New Business</b>	
Board Reorganization	Motion to nominate Karen to serve as chair made by Christine Johnston. Karen Robitaille accepted the nomination and seconded the motion out of necessity. <b>Motion passed 2-0.</b>
Fazio's Permit Fee Adjustment Request	<p>Aldo has requested to come in front of the board to discuss the retail permit fee, which is based on the total sales of an establishment. Already having a food service permit, he questions the board why he needs a retail permit to sell potato chips and soda when he is already licensed to sell pizza, dinners and subs. He feels he is being penalized having to pay the retail permit fee based on his total sales to just sell chips and soda, which accounts for roughly \$22,000 of his total sales. He is not opposed to a permit fee to sell retail, but feels that the permit fee should be based on the retail sales vs. the total sales of his food establishment. He asks the board if they would be willing to make a compromise with the fee structure for retail foods to make it more reasonable. Having the permit fee be based on the retail sales vs the total sales of the establishment seems more reasonable to him. Karen says the board put the fee structure in place about 4 years ago in 2017, phased it in, and gave establishments plenty of notice. However, she is not opposed to going back and looking at how the board set the scale for retail food establishments. The board will discuss Aldo's request to adjust the retail permit fees and invite Aldo back to a board meeting after a decision has been made.</p> <p>The board discusses Aldo's request to restructure the retail permit fees. Aimee says the fee structure was based on multiple communities including; Longmeadow, South Hadley, Montague, Amherst, Northampton, Easthampton, Lee, Lenox, and Stockbridge. Karen asks if the retail fees for any of the other towns were a sliding scale for retail or based on total sales. Aimee says she will have to look back at the fee schedules for other towns to answer Karen's question. Aimee feels as though Aldo's point is valid and we will be able to come to an agreement. Aimee suggests possibly doing a chips and soda fee for establishments with only chips and soda for retail. Karen is concerned that by adding another retail permit, it might add some confusion. Aimee says the other options is to make retail sales based on only retail sales. Christine agrees it's</p>

	too much to add a chips and soda permit, but is open to other options. Aimee says she will bring some suggestions to the next meeting.
<b>Old Business</b>	
Covid-19 – Cases & Clinics	<p>Aimee says our Covid numbers for the month of February look so much better than they have for the last four months. We have descended from red into yellow. Previously, 30 cases were reported a day and we are now down to four or five new positive cases a day. In October we had 122 cases. In November, we had 172 cases with the majority of cases being in the 20-50 age range and 31 pediatric cases. In December, we had 351 cases with 44 pediatric cases and majority community based cases. In January, we had 288 cases with a slight increase in pediatric cases with 54 cases. So far, in February, we've had 92 cases with 23 pediatric cases. Even though classes have resumed, we've seen a reduction in pediatric cases thanks to our school nurses and mitigation practices. Karen says that even though the numbers are coming down in East Longmeadow and the entire state does not mean we can stop wearing masks and social distancing. The reason it's coming down can mostly be attributed to those practices, vaccines, and in any pandemic, you will see peaks and valleys. We need to continue to do all of our measures to stop the spread.</p> <p>The week before Christmas, DPH told local health departments they would need to submit a plan to help put vaccines in peoples arms. Hampden county had a void in local health departments who would be able to vaccinate first responders, so we came up with a regionalized approach to vaccinate our first responders. We had 6 or 7 communities who signed on and asked for our support. We were also able to vaccinate all school nurses from those communities and other local health care providers in Phase I. Vaccines started to go into arms on January 5, 2021. Due to the success of this program; we were allowed to move onto Phase 2 and continue to vaccinate our residents. We have some wonderful volunteers who assisted in this process along with the Fire Department who worked hard with our team to set up these clinics in very short notice. The Health Department does emergency preparedness and does plans annually and drills those plans on how to vaccinate our community in the event of an emergency, therefore, we were able to set up these clinics quickly. Currently, we've vaccinated 2,235 people over a two month span. We will be able to get to all of our 75+ residents by the time the state takes over the vaccine process. Secretary Sudders sent out a notice that as of March 1, 2021, unless communities were willing to vaccinate anyone in the state and able to vaccinate 750 a day, five days a week, they would no longer be eligible to receive vaccines through the state. The state has agreed to send second doses through March 23, 2021. Karen says this is due to not enough vaccines being available. In order for the state to provide vaccines to local health department, vaccine production and distribution would need to be ramped up. If vaccine distribution and production increases, Karen is hopeful local health departments will receive vaccines to vaccinate people in their communities. Every municipality also does not have a local health department that is able to or willing to do the work of setting up vaccine clinics, which is another reason why the state has had to step in and create mass vaccination sites and send vaccines to those sites only. She points out we really need both mass vaccination sites and local health departments providing vaccines, but need more vaccines to be able to do this.</p>

Shared Services Final Update	The last meeting we had with town council voted to not proceed any further with the shared service arrangement with Longmeadow. We have returned the grant money we got for it, about \$58,000.00 for round 1 and another \$58,000 for round 2 we had not received yet. Had we been able to proceed, we would have been able to receive another grant for \$200,000 along with other services that our community would have benefited from, but they chose to not proceed so it is something we are no longer working on.
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Motion to adjourn made by Karen Robitaille and seconded by Christine Johnston out of necessity at 7:05 p.m. **Motion passed 2-0.**

*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.*

Christine Johnston 4/27/2021  
Christine Johnston, Secretary