

East Longmeadow Board of Health Agenda

Tuesday, March 22nd, 2022; 6:00 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

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.
Approval of minutes from previous meeting: VOTE	Christine discusses the first item of approving 2/10/2022 meeting minutes. Motion made by Dr. Jobbins to approve meeting minutes as written and seconded by Christine Johnston. Motion passed 3-0. Christine discusses the second item of approving 2/15/2022 open meeting minutes. Motion made by Christine Johnston to approve open meeting minutes as written and seconded by Dr. Jobbins. Motion passed 3-0. Christine discusses the third item of approving 2/15/2022 executive meeting minutes. Motion made by Rebecca Torcia to approve meeting minutes as written and seconded by Dr. Jobbins. Motion passed 3-0.
Public Comment	No public comment
<p>1. BUSINESS AT HAND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Trash and Recycling Update – Information provided by Elizabeth Bone, EL Trash and Recycling Coordinator b. Health Needs Assessment c. COVID-19 Update – Including, but not limited to, latest numbers, vaccine data, vaccine clinics 	<p>Ms. Spencer gave an update from Elizabeth Bone on trash and recycling. On the previous Friday, there was a Fix-it clinic at the senior center, which went well, with many residents bringing items to be repaired.</p> <p>There is a book bin outside of the Council on Aging, in the back of the parking lot, to donate books.</p> <p>Preparations are being made to transition to our new waste hauler, Casella. A new calendar and guide will be sent out, with an option to receive in Spanish. Casella will start on July 1st.</p> <p>Ms. Bone is applying for 2022 Recycling Dividends Program Grant which includes more steps such as adding more organics, diversity, and equity in recycling programs.</p> <p>On May 9th, there will be a food waste workshop to help businesses learn about the upcoming change to the food waste ban and will teach those businesses how to reduce their food waste to half-ton per week or compost.</p> <p>On April 23rd, there will be Earth Day cleanup, with sign-ups on the town site as well as Facebook.</p> <p>On June 25th, the high school will host a recycling event with Mass Save and Eversource.</p> <p>Ms. Suckau will be ordering compost bins and rain barrels for spring.</p> <p>Air sensors are being calibrated for monitoring air pollution and additional ones may be utilized to measure other air pollutants now that we have joined the Pioneer Valley Air Pollution Collaborative.</p>

On April 19th, we will be switching from Simple Recycling textile company to CMRK who partners with Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Haulers permits are being sent out and we are following up to ensure compliance within state regulations. Over the summer, Ms. Spencer would like to review permitting structure and make it more equitable.

CEP, the incinerator for the town's waste, went bankrupt, and will be sold to FNG out of Enfield. Their bankruptcy hearing will be on April 14th, then FNG will take over with new contracts. The facility will then be turned into a transfer station, which will result in it being more expensive. Options are being looked into.

Ms. Spencer stated that the Health Needs Assessment Survey is now live and accessible on the town website as well as Facebook. The assessment will be up for 4-6 weeks and takes approximately 5-10 minutes to complete. After the only portion is completed, focus groups will be used to pursue specific information. There are four \$100 gift cards available for completing the survey and within the 3 focus groups created, consisting of 3-5 individuals, who can receive \$25 gift cards. The focus groups will include seniors and a younger parent group ideally.

A discussion ensued regarding what age range would be eligible to take the survey and the potential problems of the current survey. Ms. Spencer will check with her contact at Health Resources in Action. Future enhancements were also discussed about how the survey can be made more accessible.

Ms. Spencer discussed current COVID-19 information where the numbers from last period show 19 cases with a decreased amount of people getting tests which is currently 3.3%. The previous week before last period were 13 cases and 1 pediatric case both reporting periods. There is no close contact or contact tracing being done at school. There is a new way of tracking death rates and noted that when spikes in covid that deaths follow the trend even though it is staggered on the graph.

Judy Goldberg resigned as Public Health nurse and Ms. Spencer is currently interviewing candidates for the position.

Last week, Fellowship Hall at First Congregational Church held a COVID-19 clinic. The second clinic will be on 4/12 and a \$25 gift card will be given to those receiving a first dose.

Dr. Jobbins stated Paxlovid is being given with a prescription at most pharmacies to people with a positive rapid test without the approval of a primary care physician.

The new Omicron variant comprises 50% of cases in New England and people are becoming reinfected. Currently, 70% of people in town are fully vaccinated and 39% boosted. Ms. Spencer also stated Pfizer is seeking an EUA for people 65 and older for 2nd booster and Moderna seeking EUA for emergency use for 18 and older.

Dr. Jobbins reported that viral illnesses are increasing due to unmasking. State data also reports an increased trend with Flu A.

Other Business	Ms. Spencer has been working with MRC and CERT team to determine what volunteering will look like moving forward during this new normal, while offering different trainings and certifications to boost engagement.
Next Meeting Date	The next meeting will be Tuesday April 18 th , 2022, at 6pm

Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Kathryn Jobbins 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 3/22/2022

Rebecca Torcia, Secretary