

EAST LONGMEADOW BOARD OF HEALTH

Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 6:00pm

Location: East Longmeadow via ZOOM Webinar

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; 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 6:00pm
Approval of minutes of previous meetings (VOTE)	Ms. Johnston discusses the first item of approving the January 30, 2023 meeting minutes. Ms. Torcia motions to approve the meeting minutes as written. Motion is seconded by Dr. Jobbins. Motion passes 3-0
Public Comment	No Public Comment
Business at Hand 1. Trash and Recycling Updates 2. Earth Day Events 3. East Longmeadow Tobacco Sales Regulation Discussion 4. E-Permitting Update 5. FY24 Budget Request 6. COVID-19 and other Reportable Diseases Update - Including but not limited to latest numbers, vaccine data, and vaccine clinics.	<p>Ms. Spencer reports that the efforts to align schools with regards to recycling organic waste has moved to Birchland. Implementation and the continuation of organic waste recycling continue to be successful. Commonwealth Sustainability reports that, for the month of February (which includes a week of vacation) 2,844 lbs. of organic waste has been collected, totaling 14,000 lbs. since the beginning of the school year. Commonwealth Sustainability also offered the schools a portion of the compost back to aid the school's gardening programs.</p> <p>Ms. Spencer says that the Town's Earth Day event will be held on Saturday April 8th, and a kickoff event will be held on Wednesday April 5th from 4-6pm. The kickoff event will highlight artwork from the high school, showcase vendors, and also allow the registered teams to pick up their supplies for the Earth Day Clean Up event early. Individuals as well as teams can sign up online on the town's website. Prizes will be offered in various categories.</p> <p>Ms. Spencer then begins to report that the updates to the Tobacco Regulations are mainly surrounding the definition section and in the purpose section. The regulations will be compressed and presented at a Public Hearing.</p> <p>Ms. Suckau reports that the new E-permitting portal for food permit renewal is really easy and intuitive to use. Ms. Spencer adds that the online portal can also be used to renew Tobacco Permits and to apply for Temporary Food Permits. Ms. Spencer reports that because the food permit application was condensed, revenue was lost, and, as a result, an increase in fees is expected next permitting season.</p> <p>Ms. Spencer states that changes to the FY24 budget include: an increase in proposed hours for a public health nurse (from 10 hours to 20 hours), payment for environmental testing for the landfills to be transferred to the DPW, and increase in the trash budget by 9% to account for the fuel/mileage fees from Casella.</p> <p>Ms. Spencer reports that a 4.75% positivity rate is reported in East Longmeadow with regards to COVID-19. Lyme disease and babesiosis are both present with some regularity, so there will be a focus on education during this tick season. Information cards and pamphlets are available at the Health Department in Town Hall. East Longmeadow remains steady with a 76% COVID vaccination rate, 47% of residents with 1 booster dose, and 22% with two booster doses. Ms. Spencer continues to say that a COVID vaccination clinic will be on April 25th at the Senior Center during their wellness fair from 10am to 2pm. Behavioral Health Network will be administering the vaccinations and giving out a \$25 gift card to Stop and Shop. COVID test kits are still available at the Health Department.</p>
Other Business	Ms. Spencer states that the position for an Animal Control Officer will be posted after the job description is updated. The town nurse position is also available.

Next Meeting Date	The next meeting date will be May 16, 2023 at 6:00pm.
Call to Adjourn	Motion to adjourn made by Dr. 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 March 23, 2023

Rebecca Torcia, Secretary