

EAST LONGMEADOW BOARD OF HEALTH

Tuesday September 26, 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

Pioneer Valley Tobacco Coalition Tobacco Control Officer: Donna Bowman

Representative of Zain's Smoke Shop: Mohhamed Tahla, Owner

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/ACTION TAKEN/DECISION MADE
Call to Order and Chair Announcements	Meeting called to order by Chair, Christine Johnston at 6:00pm
Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting (VOTE)	Ms. Johnston motions to approve the May 16, 2023 meeting minutes as written. Motion is seconded by Ms. Torcia. Motion passes 3-0
Public Comment	No Public Comment
Motion to open Tobacco Violation Hearing for Zain's Smoke Shop (VOTE)	Motion to open the Tobacco Violation Hearing for Zain's Smoke Shop made by Ms. Johnston and seconded by Dr. Jobbins. Motion passes 3-0
TOBACCO VIOLATION HEARING- Zain's Smoke Shop, 611 North Main Street, East Longmeadow; Hearing to discuss September 5, 2023 Cease and Desist order for sale of a tobacco product to a minor (State Law "An Act to Modernize Tobacco Control" and 105 CMR 665.000)	Representative of Zain's Smoke Shop, Zain Tahla, Owner introduces themselves. Donna Bowman describes her role as a Tobacco Control Officer within the Pioneer Valley Tobacco Coalition, and describes the incident in question. Mr. Tahla continues to explain the difficulties associated with owning a smoke shop, and states that the ID checker has been purchased and is installed. Ms. Johnston reports that this is the third violation and reaffirms that the penalties are issued by the state and are non-negotiable.
Motion to close Tobacco Violation Hearing for Zain's Smoke Shop (VOTE)	Dr. Jobbins motions to close the Tobacco Violation Hearing for Zain's Smoke Shop and seconded by Ms. Torcia. Motion passes 3-0
Motion to affirm the penalty under State Law "An Act to Modernize Tobacco Control" and 105 CMR 665.000	Motion to affirm the penalty under State Law "An Act to Modernize Tobacco Control" and 105 CMR 665.000 made by Ms. Johnston and seconded by Dr. Jobbins. Motion passes 3-0

<p>Business at Hand</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arbovirus Surveillance Updates 2. Trash and Recycling Program Updates 	<p>Ms. Spencer states that it is tobacco renewal season, and that the last day to apply is on Saturday.</p> <p>Ms. Spencer reports that in addition to a West Nile Virus positive mosquito pull, there is also a EEE positive pull as well. Guidelines suggest that preventative actions be taken and include repairing any damaged window screens, wearing mosquito repellent, using mosquito netting, avoiding areas with obvious mosquito activity and wearing appropriate clothing from dusk until dawn. Additional catch basin treatments have been ordered, and the treatment will last 90 days. Ms. Spencer continues to say that we will be working with the new Pioneer Valley Mosquito District coordinator to update and add more areas to treat. There continue to be no positive cases of West Nile Virus or EEE in humans in East Longmeadow.</p> <p>Ms. Spencer reports that the school year has started and the schools will continue to recycle and compost. Most schools have gotten the hang of separating the items, but the high school is still struggling. Ms. Spencer states that the utilization of lunch monitors as a solution is being looked into. Ms. Bone, the recycling coordinator, has been working with the head of the library to repurpose, recycle, and gift items that have accumulated over the years.</p> <p>Ms. Spencer continues to report that there is a big recycling event this Saturday in the parking lot of the high school from 10-2. East Longmeadow and Longmeadow have partnered with Eversource and National Grid, Representative Ashe and Olivera, and Green Junk Removal to run this event. More information can be found on our website.</p> <p>Another Fix-It clinic has been scheduled for November 17th from 1-3 at the Senior Center, Ms. Spencer continues. Elms Condo wrote an article about the recycling resources that we have created over the years which will be sent out to their residents. Ms. Bone is partnering with Mass Recycle to create and publish a cafeteria recycling and composting handbook for other recycling coordinators. Hartsprings will be at the Town Hall for another textile recycling competition on November 4th & December 2nd - East Longmeadow vs. Longmeadow. Ms. Spencer reports that Ms. Bone also collected over 10 boxes of school supplies for the non-profit organization "Tools for Teachers."</p>
<p>Other Business</p>	<p>Ms. Spencer reports that applications have been received for the nursing position, and it is being fine tuned between the Town Manager and the Union. After that is finalized, the interviewing process will begin.</p> <p>Ms. Spencer says that the drive through flu clinic will be held on 10/10 from 8-1 at the Senior Center, and on 10/11 from 1-6 at the Fire Station. Pre-registration is live on the website as well as the facebook page. On October 16th, a COVID and Flu clinic will be held at the Senior Center beginning at noon. On October 26th from 12-4, a flu clinic will be held at the library in conjunction with the retiree fair. More clinics to be announced at a later date.</p> <p>There are still COVID test kits available at the Health Department, but quantities are running low. Ms. Spencer continues to say that there is difficulty finding a vendor that will sell an amount of test kits that we can afford. You are still able to get the test kits through the government for free. Those links will be available on our website, and other options will continue to be explored.</p> <p>September is Public Health Emergency Preparedness Month. Basic life saving skill training is being held this Saturday from 8-12:30 at the Senior Center. This training is open to everyone - you do not have to be a resident, but you do need to be over 18 years old. More training to come in the future.</p>
<p>Next Meeting Date</p>	<p>The next meeting date will be November 15, 2023 at 6:00pm.</p>
<p>Call to Adjourn</p>	<p>Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Jobbins and seconded by Ms. Torcia. Motion passed 3-0.</p>

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 September 26, 2023
Rebecca Torcia, Secretary