



Natasha Waden provided the following opening statement: Hello, this is Natasha Waden, Public Health Director for the Town of Arlington. Consistent with the Governor's orders suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law and subsequent Act's Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted during

the State of Emergency, this Town of Arlington Board of Health meeting is being held virtually via Zoom for audio and video participation of Board Members and the public. When you entered this meeting, you were automatically muted. During this meeting you will be unmuted individually as needed. These controls are in place to ensure that today's meeting is safe and effective. At this time, I would like to confirm that all members and persons anticipated on today's agenda are present and can hear me.

Board Members, when I call your name and unmute you, please respond in the affirmative.

1. Dr. Marie Walsh Condon, Aye, Present
2. Dr. Laura White, Aye, Present
3. Dr. Peter Rice, Aye Present

Health Department staff, please respond in the affirmative when I call your name and unmute you.

1. Laura Munsey, Aye, Present
2. Jessica Kerr, Aye, Present
3. Pat Martin, Aye, Present
4. Annette Curbow, Aye Present
5. Cameron Bishop, Aye, Present

Applicants and Representatives, do we have anyone on the call representing an application? None

Others in attendance:

Gina Carme, Delores McGee, Jonathan Santos of Benchmark Tattoos

Thank you everyone.

As stated, this Open Meeting of the Arlington Board of Health is being conducted remotely consistent with An Act Relative to Extending Certain State of Emergency Accommodations which was signed by Governor Baker on July 16, 2022.

In order to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 Virus, the Town of Arlington has been advised and directed by the Commonwealth to suspend public gatherings, and as such, the Governor's Order suspends the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible physical location. Further, all members of public bodies are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely.

The Order, which you can find posted with agenda materials for this meeting, allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting.

Ensuring public access does not ensure public participation unless such participation is required by law. This meeting will have one public comment period at the end of the meeting. If you would like to comment during one of the public comment periods, please use the "Raise Hand" function if on a computer, or "Dial \*9" if on the phone. When your name or phone number is called, and you are unmuted, please state your name and provide your comment. All attendees will be afforded 3 minutes for any comments.

For this meeting, the Board of Health is convening by telephone and computer conference via Zoom as posted on the Town's Website identifying how the public may join.

Only Health Department staff will be able to share their screen during this meeting. Board Members and Department Staff may be participating by video conference. Accordingly, please be aware that other folks may be able to see you. Anything that you broadcast may be captured by the recording.

All of the materials for this meeting are available on the Novus Agenda dashboard, and I recommend that Board Members and the public follow the agenda as posted on Novus unless otherwise noted. Members of the public are encouraged to provide written public comments. A new document, correspondence received, has been added and will be shared with the Board.

Before we get to today's agenda, I am going to cover some ground rules for effective and clear conduct of our business and to ensure accurate meeting minutes.

Dr. Marie Walsh Condon, the Board Chair, will introduce each agenda item. After the item is presented, she will go down the list of Board Members, inviting each by name to provide any comment, questions, or motions. Please hold comments or questions until your name is called and you are unmuted.

For any response, please wait until the Chair yields the floor to you, and state your name before speaking.

Finally, each vote taken during this meeting will be conducted by roll-call vote.

Floor yielded to Dr. Marie Walsh Condon.

Hello everyone, welcome to today's Board of Health meeting.

## **2. Acceptance of the November 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Motion made by Dr. Laura White to approve the November 16, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Dr. Marie Walsh Condon

Vote:

- Dr. Marie Walsh Condon, Aye
- Dr. Laura White, Aye
- Dr. Peter Rice, Abstain

Approved (2-0) Unanimous

Note: Dr. Peter Rice is a newly appointed Board Member who was not present at the November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting and cannot vote on the Meeting Minutes.

### **3. Discussion: Rule and Regulations regarding Body Art Establishments and Practitioners**

Inspector Curbow informed the Board that the local Body Art Establishment Regulations have not been updated since they were created in 2001. In preliminary research the Health Department learned that many neighboring communities have since updated their regulations to reflect modern industry use standards and technology. Additionally, in 2019 the National Environmental Health Association released an updated model code that reflected new industry standards. In the past two years we have had 2 additional body art establishments open in Arlington which brings the towns numbers from 1 to 3 parlors, primarily practicing tattoo but we also have body piercers represented. In working with those establishments we heard from Practitioners who would like the town to review and update the regulations to reflect those industry standard changes including creating pathways for apprenticeship, allowances for microblading, evaluating fee structures, and exploring a temporary or guest practitioner license pathway.

Dr. Marie Walsh Condon agreed that it has been some time since these regulations have been adopted and it is good practice to review existing regulations from time to time and make sure they are updated to reflect any new technology and also we can review regulations from surrounding communities, as well as review recommendations from the National Environmental Health Association and schedule a hearing at a future meeting and make any changes or adoptions as appropriate. Floor yielded to Dr. Laura White.

Dr. White commented that when looking through the town's regulations she noticed the data is from 2001 and inquired what can be changed at town level or do changes need to come from other governing bodies. Floor Yielded to Director Natasha Waden.

Director Waden informed the Board that Body Art Regulations fall under the local purview, and there are some model regulations that we would review prior to making any changes. The issues that may come into play are any zoning issues, i.e. Body Art Establishments cannot operate at a residential location and would have to be located and operated at an establishment zoned for business. Town Council will review. Our staff would look at surrounding regulations, have input from practitioners in town and reach out to state affiliates and others doing this work and review best practices and draft something and bring before the Board.

Benchmark Tattoo letter was submitted under Correspondence Received.

Dr. Peter Rice, mirrored the question raised by Dr. White regarding the process, and through Director Waden's response understands that the research is conducted by the Health Department Professional Staff. He further inquired on the time-frame for such matters.

Director Waden informed that Board this process will take some time. Typically 6-8 Months would be a projected time frame which would allow time for research, Board input, Hearing, Town Council review, and a vote on any changes to the regulations.

Floor yielded to Jonathan Santos from Benchmark Tattoo who stated they are looking to adopt regulations that other local towns recently adopted which include a guest artist practitioner license. Over the past 10 years of traveling Mr. Santos noted he has held over 15 licenses, and that every set of regulations is different at each town, but one significant difference is that Massachusetts is the only state that requires the Anatomy and Physiology class, which makes it difficult for guest artists to provide services in Arlington.

Dr. Walsh Condon thanked Mr. Santos for his input and stated the staff will be reaching out for additional input as we make some proposed changes, and there will be a hearing scheduled in the next few months.

#### **4. Discussion:** 2023 meeting schedule:

Dr. Marie Walsh Condon requested changing the March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting to March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. White is available for all proposed dates as well as March 8<sup>th</sup>

Dr. Rice is available for all proposed dates as well as March 8<sup>th</sup>

Proposed 2:00 pm start time works for all Commissioners

Director Waden informed the Board that the location is to be determined: March can be held remotely per the Governors orders, but if in-person is required, the locations will change to the Health Department Office at 27 Maple Street. Equipment is available if needed for Hybrid meetings.

#### **6. UPDATES:** Environmental Health

Inspector Martin reported that on January 9<sup>th</sup> he visited 1530 Mass Ave and met with Receiver, Attorney Stuart Schrier and his happy to report that the interior has been cleaned out and exterior is in very close to being in compliance with Health Regulations at this point. He further reported there is a hearing today in Eastern District Housing Court regarding this case, and he is hoping that by the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting we will be able to report this case as closed.

Tetragenetics has a name change and is now AbCellera Boston. They are anticipating large scale activity later this year, and will be submitting a proposal, and he will add to a future agenda. Floor Yielded to Director Natasha Waden.

Director Waden brought the Board up to date on the status of one of the warrant articles in regards to the prohibition of rodenticide being used throughout the town. She reported there is currently State legislation regarding this matter, so the local bylaw is on hold with no action, until we see what the State concludes. The town however has adopted a prohibition of 2<sup>nd</sup> generation rodenticide on all town buildings, under the direction of Deputy Town Manager Jim Feeney and he is working with Health Department Staff to clean up that policy. If appropriate the town will go out to bid to consolidate Pest Control Services throughout town implementing the integrated pest management that the town is interested in and use of any pesticides is only as a last resort. The use of any 2nd generation rodenticides would be a last resort and would need a waiver approved by the Health Department, and information regarding these waivers will be posted. It is the Health Departments goal to host an educational seminar/webinar this spring.

## 7. UPDATES: Restaurants

Inspector Martin stated a few establishments changed ownership including:

- Marias Pizza
- Yassou
- Galaxy Market is under new management and is now Arlington Heights Convenience.

Dr. Rice inquired the process for a change of ownership for Restaurants. Inspector Martin stated that anytime an establishment changes ownership they are considered a new business and need to contact the Health Department and complete the plan review process.

## 8. UPDATES: COVID-19 / Public Health Nurse

Nurse Kerr updated the Board with the following updates:

Covid contact tracing continues through our regional collaborative with Somerville and Medford which will run through June of 2023.

Some numbers from Maven (which do not include at home test results) include:

- November 2022: 92 Cases
- December 2022: 173 Cases
- January 2023 to date: 86 Cases

In 2022 there were over 5,000 Covid cases in Arlington and the Health Department administered over 1300 Covid vaccines. We continue to distribute at home tests throughout the community and continue to reach out to our assisted living facilities and long term care facilities.

In addition to Covid we have a lot of upper respiratory illness and other Influenza like illnesses that are going around. DPH reports Massachusetts as still being high and in the last few weeks visits for ILA have almost doubled in Massachusetts but we are starting to see numbers going down. RSV is still a concern however, we are seeing those numbers starting to down as well.

We are also monitoring some residents and travelers who recently came back from Uganda for any signs or symptoms of illness because there is a recent outbreak of Ebola in Uganda. On a positive note, last week the CDC took back that requirement because the World Health Organization (WHO) declared that outbreak is over.

Dr. Marie Walsh Condon echoed Nurse Kerr's report, and stated that her practice was seeing lots of influenza like illness including Covid, RSV, and Influenza and are starting to see a reprieve.

No Additional questions or comments by Dr. Laura White, or Dr. Peter Rice.

Director Waden informed the Board that prevention services, formerly the Arlington Youth Health and Safety Coalition, position is going to fall back under the supervision of the Health Department. The Prevention Services Coordinator Position has been posted and we expect some great

candidates. They will be working out in the community and the town expects some settlement funds from the Opioid Settlement to assist funding these initiatives. The successful candidate will be working on these initiatives and research what the trends are in our community to see what we can put in place to help mitigate these issues. Jessica Kerr, David Neylan, and Inspector Curbow have been helping to get this program in place, and we will be working with schools, AYCC, and Community Stakeholders to evaluate what our substance use needs are, and how best to use those Opioid Settlement funds to assist our Community.

Additionally we are looking forward to conduct an in-depth public health community needs assessment regarding trends we need to focus on in Arlington.

Chair Marie Walsh Condon inquired as to whom would be conducting the community needs assessment, and Director Waden replied that the town will be posting a Request for Proposal (RFP). The time line would be approximately 6-8 months for the RFP process, and then the Health Department will initiate stakeholder meetings and forums to be upwards of 6 months to a year, and that will be followed by a plan of action. Director Waden stated this is a long -term project that requires long range planning. Dr. Walsh Condon offered her assistance and is available to work with the Department in any way possible.

Dr. White inquired if there was any additional information regarding this Opioid project and any foreseeable challenges arising. For example: can we broaden this if stimulants become an issue.

All of these are intertwined, including mental health, substance use and abuse, homelessness, low income housing, and wrap-around services. We are looking to get data, look at what we are responding to, and to see if there are there are a significant number of overdoses, or suicide attempts, and what is the substance (cocaine, meth, etc.), and then once the data is compiled we can build off of that data to see what programs would be most beneficial. Recently the Town had a recovery coach, and we were able to get funding to provide some sober living options and assist with some basic needs. We are now trying to tie this into what we think we need but believe the best approach would be to conduct a community needs assessment to provide the best possible services. We do know we will need to take a wraparound approach. It needs to be more encompassing and broader. Unlike the AYHSC, this position needs to assist all ages, not just youth. As we collect data, we will share that with the Board and will also be reaching out to the Board for input as well as the Community to determine the best possible way and serving our Community in the best way.

Dr. Peter Rice asked if Director Waden if she could provide a couple of examples of where the town would get the information needed.

Director Waden replied that some of the strategies will be to:

- Work with police department, looking at police reports that are drug, substance abuse, or overdose related;
- Look at hospital data;
- Working with clinicians that are currently serving the youth of Arlington;
- Tap in to some participating Counselors and Mental Health Clinicians within the town;
- Conduct surveys;

- Conduct in-person meetings;
- Conversations with Physician offices
- Conversations with our schools;
- Review the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) data with Guidance Counselors, and the Diversion Coordinator;
- Review Emergency Room data, through mass chip, etc.

There will be a lot of digging, a lot of work ahead, but we are excited to begin this project.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

10. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn made by Dr. Laura White at 2:45 pm.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Dr. Peter Rice

Vote:

- Dr. Marie Walsh Condon, Aye
- Dr. Laura White, Aye
- Dr. Pete Rice, Aye
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Approved (3-0) Unanimous

Meeting adjourned