



BURLINGTON BOARD OF HEALTH
BURLINGTON BOARD OF HEALTH 645 PINE STREET MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM
MINUTES OF MEETING
October 7, 2024

1. Agenda

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Attending: Board Chair Celia Bird, Jenny Tomczak, Jane Seymour, Bianca Cimrin, Judy Rivers and Health Officer Bill Ward.

Judy made a motion to add approval of Deputy Town Health Officer Jenny Lowell to the agenda in the Chair's report and to approve the agenda. Jenny 2nd the motion. Unanimous in favor.

1.1. Motion to amend/adopt agenda

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2. Approval of September draft minutes

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Jenny made a motion to amend the agenda and add the approval of July's draft minutes to this item on the agenda. Judy 2nd. Unanimous in favor.

Typos were corrected and Jane made a motion to approve the draft July minutes. Jenny 2nd. Unanimous 3 person vote in favor (Jane, Jenny, Celia). Two abstained as they were not participants in July.

The September draft minutes were reviewed and Bianca asked that her attendance at the September ComStat meeting and overview for the board be included in the minutes. Celia asked to add in her chair report the update that she met with the Director of the King Street Center and gave an update at the September meeting. Judy made a motion to approve the September minutes with the noted changes. Jenny 2nd. Unanimous in favor.

3. Public Forum

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No members of the public attended the meeting.

Subject

3.1. Verbal Comments

Meeting

October 7, 2024 - Board of Health - Monday, October 7, 2024, 5:30 PM, Burlington Board of Health 645 Pine Street Main Conference Room

Category

3. Public Forum

Department

Council and Board

Type

3.1. Verbal Comments

4. Substance Abuse and Safe Syringe Disposal

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Bianca reviewed the work she had done in the past month to create a tracking spreadsheet for requests of syringe disposal boxes. The spreadsheet includes basic information like business name and the contact person and business addresses in order to track delivery progress when boxes are requested, delivered and returned. The board discussed possible integration with SeeClickFix. Bill noted that the software is an independent vendor and full integration may be difficult.

Bianca asked if there was any information the other members wanted to add to the spreadsheet. Jenny asked if a column could be added for repeated pickups to track how many boxes get used at a location. Bianca noted that tracking the size would also be helpful.

The board members discuss the best way to divide the core response area and do individual outreach to businesses. Members took a few properties each and will update their efforts in the spreadsheet when Bianca makes edits suggested at the meeting. The primary outreach area will include Main Street to Pearl Street between South Union and Church Street.

Judy mentioned the Vermont State Medical Reserves, a group that was active during the pandemic and very successful in the delivery of Covid injections. They may be a resource if this effort expands.

5. Health Equity

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Jenny gave an update on a recent community dinner meeting she attended. The presenter was Dr. Jules Wetchi who spoke about increasing awareness of chronic diseases and educating community members about disease prevention and management. She also heard from Gillian Nanton from CEDO who is working on getting some kind of AI software for translation which could include immediate translation of all different languages.

Bianca attended the most recent ComStat meeting. Jenny was able to attend the first hour. Bianca noted there was a review of the number of syringes distributed vs. collected. She said that there was an overview by Selena Colburn about past syringe clean up efforts. Councilor Evan Litwin was collecting contact information from others who were interested in past efforts and data collection.

Jenny added that Sara George spoke about work on a grant incentive program for diverting court cases for individuals who come in every week for urine testing and keep a clean record for 12 weeks. Individuals could have their cases dropped provided they meet these and other requirements. This would be an effort to reduce some of the 2,800 pending cases.

6. Chair Report

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Celia began the chair report by asking Bill to provide some background on his request to add a new Deputy Health Officer. Bill explained that Jenny Lowell was a new staff member who began work with DPI at the start of September. She is the administrator for the Housing Division in the department. Her primary functions are to schedule routine and complaint inspections for Burlington rental units. Bill said that Jenny has been an exemplary employee who excelled in the role. She has already increased the housing inspection rate by more than 30% in her first several weeks. Bill provided a written recommendation as well.

Jenny made a motion to approve Jenny Lowell as a Deputy Town Health Officer. Judy 2nd. Unanimous in favor.

On the topic of Gun Violence - Jenny gave an overview of the Mayor's public safety meeting she attended on September 19th. She said that Senator Phil Baruth spoke about Burlington's charter change and the potential for statewide action. The mayor also made a point that private establishments can ban guns on their own grounds, and Red Square was already doing this. The Mayor also supported more training for support staff on deescalation.

Celia suggested that she could write an email on behalf of the board to the President of City Council, saying

that we strongly recommend putting the charter change on the ballot and asking how the Board of Health can support city council in doing so? Jane made a motion to approve the suggested email from the chair. Bianca 2nd. Unanimous in favor.

7. Budget requests

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Bill showed the board a draft logo for the Board of Health sunscreen that was purchased for future tabling events. The draft was created by our Housing Division Manager, Cara Simoneau.

Bill spoke briefly about a list of previous BOH expenses that were approved over a number of years. He shared a list that was put together by a board member 2 years ago. Bianca asked about the process for approving a new item. The board process was discussed to include posting a proposed expense on an agenda prior to a meeting for proper public notice.

8. Emerging Issues

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Jane gave an update on her previous Front Porch Forum post on mosquito-borne illnesses and included the VT Department of Health links to information.

9. Public Outreach / Communications

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Jane spoke about creating a Board of Health overview as a way to let community members know what the Board of Health does, when we meet and how to find our public agendas.

The board discussed the current City of Burlington website and the Board links with associated information. Board members noted that some of the Board Member's individual City Wards were not accurate. Celia is a Ward 5 resident, not 4 as the website lists. Jenny is 4, not 5, like the website currently lists. Bill will check on that.

10. Adjournment

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The Board decided on the November meeting being Monday, November 4th, at 5:30 pm. The meeting will be at 645 Pine Street in the main conference room.

The Board reviewed possible dates for the December meeting too. The Board decided on Monday, December 2nd, at 5:30 pm. The meeting will be at 645 Pine Street in the main conference room.

Judy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jenny 2nd. Unanimous in favor.

Subject	10.1. Motion to adjourn
Meeting	October 7, 2024 - Board of Health - Monday, October 7, 2024, 5:30 PM, Burlington Board of Health 645 Pine Street Main Conference Room
Category	10. Adjournment
Department	Council and Board
Type	
Recommended Action	
10.1. Motion to adjourn	

