

BOH: Minutes from the Board Meeting on August 4, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 4:41 PM (11 mn. past due to a connectivity issues). The Members in attendance: Board Chairperson, Dr. Brophy, Fr. Fiske, and then Eno Mondesir (Exec. Health Officer, Ex. Officio); Dr. Andrade notified the Board of his absence.

I briefly welcomed the members and then introduced Dr. Brophy who led the meeting. The minutes from prior Board meeting were presented to the Board. Then, Dr. Brophy asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Fiske so moved, and the Board voted unanimously to approve them.

Mr. Rob May and Mr. John Fay from the City's Department of Planning and Development attended the for the purpose of presenting a petition to the Board to adopt NIH Guidelines for Recombinant DNA (rDNA). There were various questions from the Board of Directors. Members of the Board expressed the desire to further the discussion at the next Board Meeting in order to find how the City can play a more decisive role in the implementation of the project. Mr. May and Mr. Fay have accepted the invitation to return to the Board with some examples on how other Municipalities have participated in the decision making process on rDNA projects.

The next item on the agenda was a "Tobacco permit" solicitation: Attorney John McCluskey represented a client, seeking to obtain a permit to be able to sell tobacco at a Belmont Street store. The case was heard, but was later tabled for further discussion.

Prevalence of COVID-19 in Brockton: during the month of July, COVID-19 has fluctuated among the population. We have seen a rise and fall in the concentration of the virus in the wastewater sewer.

Next agenda item presented is the use of sewer wastewater as a surveillance modality to monitor COVID-19 concentration in the City. Relatively, the COVID viral load in our sewer here has been much higher than that in most Cities in the Commonwealth.

Dr. Brophy has indicated that vaccination remains a major component in our efforts to mitigate COVID-19.

I further elaborated that BOH is pushing to make COVID-19 vaccine available to the people in Brockton. For example, the Public Health Nurses have been

administering vaccine in various locations. Under DPH contract, Brewster's Ambulance continues to vaccinate at the Shaw's Center once a week: every Saturday, from 7:00 AM to 3PM; while BOH vaccinates at the same location every Tuesday, from 2:00 to 7:00 PM.

Contact Tracing: Case investigation has been a significant concern for the Board of health. Every so often, the City has registered more cases of COVID-19 than ever and BOH had limited capacity to follow them all. Therefore, part of our new strategies is that, we have been contacting people who are not up-to-date with their vaccine requirements, and encourage them to come to one of our clinics. This is working well. We have been delivering Home Test Kits to homes of the residents.

PCR testing site in the City: the Board was briefed on the demand to have an ongoing testing site for COVID-19. BOH has been working with Curative, Inc., a private organization that is involved in COVID-19 testing. Progress has been made and Curative is working to officially launch its COVID-9 testing services in Brockton near the end of August.

Mr. Fiske mentions that it is an important initiative to have this service available to the residents of Brockton.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 PM. The Board scheduled our next Board meeting for September 1, 2022.