

WHATELY BOARD OF HEALTH

4 SANDY LANE

SOUTH DEERFIELD, MA 01373

MEETING MINUTES March 9, 2021

Called to order 5:35pm

PRESENT: Fran Fortino, Chair; Becky Jones, MD; Michael Archbald, Mark Bushee, District Health Agent, Victor from the Community Health Care Center of Franklin County

1. **Meeting minutes** were reviewed from **February 23, 2021**, motion made to accept and voted unanimously to accept.
2. **Current Topics:**
 - **Schools and town covid 19 updates:** Discussion around pool testing at the WES was discussed. By April 5th DESE is requiring all MA elementary schools to return to full in-person classes 5 days/week. Currently no known cases of Covid 19 in Whately.
 - **Local Covid 19 Vaccine Status:** Nothing new to report- there will be no South County Clinics this week. Long range picture looks better, in April Phase three opens which is unrestricted, and all can get the vaccine where they can make an appointment. Looks like sometime in May before we see some relief and we'll have all the vaccine we need/can handle.
 - **Farmworkers Collaboration:** Very good discussion with Victor, our focus on the farmworkers is vital at this time as annually the number of farm workers "doubles in April" he said. Victor has a list of farms he obtained from CISA. He has visited many of the farms and met with some owners and many of the workers. We discussed the increased need for education for both owners and workers and Victor will help identify which farms will need additional resources while balancing his need to maintain a good and trusting relationship with them. Encouraged Victor to let BOH's in each town to be the follow up for any owners dragging their feet or not taking the pandemic seriously. Becky will be looking into the Vermont model for assistance and guidance in the work that needs to be done.
 - **Manure Pile at Chestnut Plain farm.** Reviewed brief meeting Mike had with resident. Requesting if he can put down blacktop with concrete barriers told him I would research and get back to him.
4. **Excellence Grants:** Bidders conference scheduled for Thursday. A specific grant workshop by Phoebe Walker/the FRCOG and others is also scheduled.
5. Monthly bills paid

Next Meeting set for: March 16, 2021

Meeting adjourned 6:17pm, Respectfully Submitted by Michael Archbald