



Finn McCool  
Health Director

Town of  
**Longmeadow, Massachusetts**

20 Williams Street, Longmeadow, MA 01106  
Tel. (413) 565-4140 • [health@longmeadow.org](mailto:health@longmeadow.org)



Robert Baevsky, Chair  
Richard Steingart, Vice Chair  
Anastasios Angelides, Clerk  
Gregory Valania  
Michele Keane-Moore  
Christine Beaumont, Assoc.

Longmeadow Board of Health

Minutes of meeting held 9/27/21

Attendees:

Dr. Robert Baevsky, Chair

Dr. Richard Steingart, Vice Chair

Dr. Anastasios Angelides, Clerk

Dr. Gregory Valania

Dr. Michele Keane-Moore

Christine Beaumont, Associate Member

Finn McCool, Director

Dr. Baevsky convened the meeting at 7 PM

1. The Governor's Open Town Meeting Protocol defining the guidelines for all town meetings conducted by remote means was read aloud. Details regarding the guidelines are posted on the Longmeadow Town website.

2. The minutes of the 8/16/21 meeting were accepted unanimously. Motion by Dr. Baevsky, Second by Dr. Richard Steingart

3. The meeting was opened to Public comments:

a. Town Moderator Rebecca Townsend asked if another Board meeting would take place before the anticipated Town Meeting on November 2nd. Dr. Baevsky indicated there is likely to be another meeting in October.

4. The Chair recognized Mr. McCool for the purpose of reviewing the status of the anticipated Public Health Excellence for Shared Services Program to run in collaboration with the towns of Wilbraham, Hampden and Monson. Mr. Eric Weiss was introduced to provide an update. He noted the background history of loss of the Longmeadow Public Nurse, change in the BOH directorship, and simultaneous loss of Public Health Director for Monson, Wilbraham and Hampden, thus providing an impetus for creating a new, regional shared health services program to be supported by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. A three year grant has been awarded for this purpose.

**a. Year 1- \$320,000**

**b. Year 2- \$387,000**

**c. Year 3 - Expected to be \$387,000**

A Memorandum of Understanding has been created and will be approved individually by the towns (Wilbraham and Hampden have already approved):

- a. The Health Director of Town of Longmeadow will be in charge of resource allocation (for example, utilization of the Public Health Nurse)
- b. Employees of the Shared Health Arrangement will be employees of the Town of Longmeadow
- c. Monies will be allocated to cover OPEB costs
- d. Term of the agreement is ten years, but this can be modified in the future (can be reviewed yearly)
- e. There is no guarantee of funding beyond year three – anticipated that after year 3 the cost to Longmeadow will be \$103,000
- f. The Longmeadow BOH will work collaboratively with the BOH of the other towns to ensure appropriate implementation of the agreement
- g. Resources to be divided based on town populations – Longmeadow to receive 36% of resources
- h. Program to be called **Eastern Hampden Shared Public Services (EHSPS)**.

5. Dr. Steingart asked about arrangements for flu vaccination. Arrangements have been made with Big Y to administer the vaccines beginning October 7, thus obviating the need for the town to be directly involved.

6. COVID-19 update:

- a. 23 active cases in Longmeadow, 13 in previously vaccinated patients. No reported clusters.
- b. No reported adverse events from wearing masks.
- c. Dr. Baevisky noted the need for BOH to meet regularly to re-assess regional COVID-19 status based on a variety of data inputs and the need to re-assess public health guidelines including masking requirements.

d. There was no motion to change our current guidelines.

e. It was noted that the State Department of Education has extended school guidelines, including masking, into November. The Board therefore has no new recommendations for the Board of Education and the school Superintendent.

f. Some town residents have complained that some stores are not implementing mask mandates. There was discussion regarding implementation of fines as a measure of enforcement in the case of infractions of masking mandates. After discussion, it was decided to monitor the matter and re-assess at future meetings.

g. Town employees COVID-19 vaccination status:

i. Fire Dept – 100%

ii. Police Dept – 89%

iii. Municipal -77%

7. Halloween restrictions were discussed. Last year's restrictions were not intended to be extended indefinitely. There was no motion to re-institute restrictions.

8. Note was made of the Pride Event that was staged recently.

9. Dr. Baevsky announced that the BOH will meet on a monthly basis to continue reviewing policies .

With no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59.

Respectfully submitted,

Tass Angelides, Clerk