

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

July 20, 2020

TOWN BUILDING

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Present by remote roll call were John G. Schuler M. D. (JS), Arne Soslow, M. D. (AS), Brian McNamara (BM), Susan Green (SG), Chair, Julia Junghanns, (JJ) Director of Public Health, Ruth Mori MSN, RN (RM) Public Health Nurse/School Nurse Leader, Patti White (PW).

SG: Roll call to open meeting: JS – yes, BM- yes, AS – yes and SG – yes

5:30 p.m. Vote on Silver Leaf Homes Definitive Subdivision-81 West Plain Street-Project proponent Britton Bradford, Professional Engineer Kevin O’Leary (KO) of Jillson.

5:35 Bob Defrancesco DMD (RD) joined the meeting.

KO described the subdivision for two lots, 2.1 acres. 81 W. Plain St. is an existing home. 20,000 sq. ft. minimum lot size. Both exceed this size. Access via a private roadway. Planning board has approved the plan. Stormwater runoff and sewage are self-contained. Served by town sewer. Each house 5 bedrooms. Collection runoff includes Cultec chambers below grade, 3 – 4 feet deep plus catch basins in roadway. Frank DePietro reviewed the proposed drainage system for the town and says it is acceptable. There are no variances, BM asked why does this have to come before the Board of Health? BoH has to vote to approve or deny if it is a definitive subdivision.

SG: motion to approve the definitive subdivision at 81 W. Plain Street, as approved by the Planning Board on July 7, 2020. JS seconded. BM-yes, JS-yes, AS-yes, SG-abstain.

5:50 p.m. Review and Discuss 3 models for reopening schools and any new information-potentially prepare BoH statement(s) with recommendations and considerations and potential vote on statement(s)

Jeanne Downs, (JD) School Committee Chair joined our meeting. Administration is focusing effort on hybrid and remote models, but all-in model is still on the table. JD would like BoH guidance on masks, what type/grade to use, how often to supply them to staff, whether to follow DESE guidance on COVID cases in school, metrics for opening and closing schools, protocols for family and staff who travel out of state, a testing regimen, temperature checks, cohorting, checklist for families prior to sending children to school. School Committee will make a decision by July 31st. Blueprint for the chosen plan is due August 10th. The School Committee needs our input soon.

AS asked the group, how do we go about answering these questions? How will we come to a consensus? SG suggested looking at the DESE requirements and see if the BoH agrees with them and where we differ. JD will send the BoH a list of questions for the BoH. The BoH will meet later this week to discuss the questions. AS says we need to assume a model in order to answer the questions. SG asked if School Committee needs answers to all the questions before making a decision on the model vs. doing the Blueprint. JD says to focus on the DESE guidelines for opening and closing, and testing which need to be addressed before the decision on which model the School Committee will choose.

Classrooms: 3' distance is met for full class, 6' distance for hybrid model. BM and RD asked about the square footage per person and if there are diagrams for each class. BM wanted to understand what percentage of students would be 6' apart given the current classroom size. JD says this information is available and she can provide it. AS asked about desks vs. tables. JD said town is ordering desks. JD says they ordered canopies for outside classrooms.

There was an extended discussion of the most appropriate learning environment for children and the School Committee's preference for in school learning. Survey results indicated at least 8% of students will elect to do remote learning. There was also a discussion on cohorting and whether it could be done, what the tradeoffs would be, and if other adjacent school districts are doing it. JD says unlikely to be cohorting at the high school.

6:30 BM left the meeting.

BoH will meet again this week to review and discuss the answers to the School Committee's questions. Individual board members can answer them prior to the meeting.

AS recommending looking at the Harvard Global Health Initiative guidelines. AS also discussed sentinel testing and contact tracing and the preference to have RM and her staff do it rather than have Partners in Health do it. RM agrees it is preferable to do the contact tracing in town by someone familiar with the community. RM said she and the public health team have experience with contact tracing through other communicable diseases. RM told the BoH that she is training nurses to help with contact tracing when the school nurses who are helping this summer, are back in school.

7:00 p.m. Updates and discussion: Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation

RM says it has been very busy in her office. There are 111 confirmed cases. Two cases were in a long-term care facilities, other three were community members – ages 17, 21 and 44. One tested positive in TN and moved to Wayland.

JJ discussed state guidance on reopening playgrounds. Louise Miller wanted to know what our opinion was on cleaning high-touch surfaces, manage number of people on playground and signage. JS asks if we have resources to clean playgrounds. AS said the playgrounds are not going to be monitored so use them at your own risk. It is reasonable to open them given low rate of COVID in Wayland.

JS wants to know where residents and people at the schools can get reliable testing and provide this information to the public. He asked whether the town will be able to provide testing.

7:10 p.m. Updates and discussion on Governor Baker's Phased reopening plan

There are no specific updates on the reopening plan. There was information on summer camps which is fairly complex.

7:13 p.m. General Business ☐ Approve bills, approve minutes May 8, 2020 ☐ Set next meeting dates

SG: Motion to accept two sets of bills. JS: second. JS – yes, RD – yes, SG – yes

SG: Motion to approve the minutes from May 8, 2020. RD: second. JS – yes, RD – yes, SG – yes

Next meeting July 23, 2020 5:30 p.m.

7:20 p.m. Topics not reasonably anticipated by the chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting, if any

None

7:22 p.m. Public comment

SG: Motion to adjourn the meeting, second RD roll call JS yes RD yes SG yes. All in favor.

Adjourned 7:24 p.m.

Submitted by Board of Health member Susan Green
Approved 020821