

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

March 15, 2021

TOWN BUILDING

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. Present by remote roll call were Arne Soslow, M. D. (AS), Susan Green (SG), Robert DeFrancesco DMD (RD) Chair, Julia Junghanns, (JJ) Director of Public Health, Ruth Mori MSN, RN (RM) Public Health Nurse/School Nurse Leader, Arthur Unobskey, Superintendent of Schools (AU), Jeanne Downs, School Committee Chair, (JD).

RD: Roll call to open meeting SG made motion, AS: second: AS – yes, SG – yes and RD-yes

5:38 p.m. Covid-19 Case report, updates and new information, information on school reopening

5:45 p.m. John Schuler, MD, (JS) joined the meeting.

There are 10 confirmed cases, both children and adults. Cases are declining and spread is occurring within families. Long term care facilities are status quo, no cases. No in school transmission.

Had a second dose clinic last week, and another second dose clinic next week. Next week, there will be Housing Authority clinic. Still working on a plan to vaccinate homebound people. Still exploring a regional collaborative with about 10 communities (not all are our usual Metrowest communities), we have submitted a paperwork, and the State has asked some more specific information (they need to approve the site). Wayland doesn't fit the criteria to have a site in town but perhaps in Acton or Concord. We are too close to the Natick Mall large vaccination site. DPH does not plan to have clinics run by Local Health in communities but will rely on large vax sites, commercial sites, and some regional health sites(must be able to do 750 doses a day for 5 days a week). RM and JJ will continue to advocate for community vaccination.

School reopening: AU gave the update. K-5 return to school on April 5th, all in. Middle and High school students will return April 27th, also all-in. The plan is to have students at a minimum of 3' distance. Will require moving out hundreds of tables, moving in hundreds of desks. Ordered KN95 masks for teachers. Looking at staggering arrival and dismissal traffic. They are in the process of revising schedules, which is a monumental undertaking. Typically, other schools in our 18 school districts, 16 are coming in around the same time as Wayland will for high school students. AS: How are we going to reduce exposures during eating to maintain 6' distancing? AU said they are using gymnasiums. PTO got vax appointments for teachers. Teachers are having a fair amount of success in getting appointments. There are sports, outside track, football, volleyball and cheerleading that are part of Fall 2. Then afterwards, will start spring sports likely after April break.

The pool testing program funded by the state will go up to April 16th. Would we change the testing protocol when all students are back in full time? Right now continuing the program adopted 3 weeks ago but Schools are looking into what the program will look like considering the potential costs. RM suggests once a week testing on Friday.

6:11 p.m. 105 Plain Road Conservation Cluster Plan, comments to the Planning Board

Discussion postponed but it looks like the plan will be moving forward.

6:12 p.m. Updates on: *Public Involvement Process (PIP) for River's Edge and meeting on March 18th*

PIP is a process the state created to allow residents to be involved when there is a site being cleaned up for contamination. During the PIP, regular meetings are held to inform residents of the cleanup process, access to documents and reports is provided and education is provided regarding the site history and steps being taken to clean up in a public forum. The PIP was initiated by citizens of Wayland via a petition. Looking at stormwater discharges on site and treated wastewater, according to the recent study by Ben Gould its unlikely to affect downstream sources. The developer is in the process of beginning construction and has applied for permits. They have a Licensed Site Professional and have been following the state required process for cleanup for any contamination found in an environmental study of a site. At this time JJ isn't sure about the potential soil removal or areas where that is required/proposed. The PIP meeting will be reviewing what is being required by the state and the most current information regarding environmental reports.

AS asked about the Cascade project. JJ wasn't aware of status.

PFAS report and notification regarding Happy Hollow wells

MA DEP adopted a new regulation of 20ppt for PFAS in public well drinking water. Town wells have been testing for PFAS and the Happy Hollow wells showed 22 ppt which is in violation of the new level in MassDEP Water Regulations. The town will need to take steps to fix this problem, including initiation of public education. Tom Holder of DPW will be meeting with DEP to discuss options. Happy Hollow wells are still being used, as far as Julia is aware. She will check with Tom. Oversight/decision making she believes is MassDEP but will find out more information after Tom's meeting.

Public Health Regional Grant being offered by the state

JJ discussed the grant offered by the state for regional/shared services to improve public health. Discussing this with a number of other towns for regional collaboration – one grant is with the same group for covid vaccination clinics and the other is some Metrowest communities; potential regional services may include inspectional services (like camps), population health services/nursing, ticks/mosquitos. We are not sure yet if we can be part of 2 grants but more information will be coming.

6:40 p.m. General business,

approve minutes March 1, 2021, approve bills if any, set next 3 meeting dates for septic projects and chicken keeping permit hearings

JS moved to approve the minutes, SG seconded. AS: yes, JS: yes, SG: yes and RD: yes.

JS moved to approve the bills, SG seconded. AS: yes, JS: yes, SG: yes and RD: yes.

March 29th, April 12th and May 3rd are the next meetings.

JS wants to know who monitors the monitoring wells. He asked specifically about the high school turf fields and potential contamination from new construction. AS what kind of testing is required at the high school wells.

6:55 p.m. Topics not reasonably anticipated by the chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting, if any - None

6:55 p.m. Public comment - None.

**6:55 p.m. SG Motion to adjourn the meeting, second AS roll call JS yes AS yes SG yes. RD yes
6:55 p.m. Adjourned**

Submitted by Board member Susan Green

Submitted by Board of Health member Susan Green

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APPROVED 032921