

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

March 29, 2021

TOWN BUILDING

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. Present by remote roll call were Arne Soslow, M. D. (AS), John Schuler M.D. (JS) 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 the meeting: AS – yes, JS – yes, SG – yes, RD-yes

5:32 p.m. Covid-19 Case report, Covid-19 related updates and new information including state travel advisory related to school reopening

In March 12th report, there were 10 cases, March 19th, there were 15 cases, March 26th there were 15 confirmed cases. Each week, RM states they are continuing to see household transmission. Individual students are occasionally positive though she is not seeing secondary cases (close contacts) becoming positive. Nursing home and assisted living facilities are not having COVID cases. Assisted living facility #2, has 85% staff vaccine rate and it is company policy that all staff are required to be vaccinated. RM worked with three different day cares having positive cases, though also no transmission in day cares. There have been a couple of pooled testing cases in the school, and have not seen household transmission resulting from 2 cases identified through pooled testing.

March 17th, had a second dose clinic for residents who had received first dose from Wayland Health Dept. On the same date, did a Senior Housing Authority COVID vaccine clinic. There were 20 doses leftover which had to be given to another town. RM recalls that Wayland has approximately 26 homebound seniors. A revised signup yielded over 30 homebound seniors waiting for vaccine. Sign up for homebound individuals will continue.

5:47 Brian McNamara (BM) joined the meeting.

State Travel Advisory related to School Reopening: AU started by saying young people are becoming COVID positive. He wants to make sure to have as much risk mitigation as possible for returning students who will be all-in at 3' apart. There is a long weekend and April vacation coming up soon, and he would like to see mandatory quarantining or testing upon return from out-of-state trips. AU asked that the State travel order which was mandatory but became an advisory, be mandatory in Wayland. There was discussion about the risks from out-of-state travel vs. higher-risk in-state travel and whether to mandate or strongly urge returning students to test prior to returning to school. The Board of Health was told by town counsel that we cannot mandate testing or quarantining upon return from travel, unless we can identify a specific reason why Wayland is different and would need such a mandate that is different from state guidelines. The attestation continues to include the question about out-of-state travel but AU will work with RM and JJ to devise language on how to handle students who traveled out of state. BoH reviewed the language JD suggested from the travel advisory and the BoH stated we would strongly urge and highly recommend that families follow the State Travel Advisory. This statement would be in a joint letter from the School Department and the Health Department, who will work together on the letter.

6:35 p.m. Updates on: Public Involvement Process (PIP) for River's Edge, PFAS and resident notifications regarding Happy Hollow wells, letter to private well owners

PIP session included a history of the site, including soil and gw testing. In addition to the website for the PIP, there is a repository of information on the State's website regarding the site. Will be doing soil removal in the firing range area because of lead contamination, and the Licensed Site Professional, reporting to the state, will oversee the soil removal to the standard of no significant risk. Developer has done building demolition and building application review was done by the health department, building permit applications have been submitted to building. There is a website that includes the PIP presentation which was recorded.

PFAS letter will go out to residents with private wells. JS asked about the monitoring wells installed near the new athletic fields to find out if monitoring is taking place. JJ has reached out to find out if the wells have been tested and to get the test results, she will follow up. DEP is the one who controls what happens with public wells vis-a-vis PFAS testing and controls.

6:52 p.m. General business, approve minutes March 15, 2021, August 3, 2020, approve bills if any

JS: Moves that we accept the minutes of March 15, 2021, SG second roll call JS yes AS yes SG yes. RD yes BM yes 5-0-0

AS: Moves that we accept the minutes of August 3, 2020, JS second. roll call JS yes AS yes SG yes. RD yes BM yes 5-0-0

6:54 p.m. Topics not reasonably anticipated by the chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting, if any – None

BM met with JJ and Darren MacCaughey to discuss the revised septic regulations.

6:55 p.m. Public comment - One public comment came in via email regarding shared responsibility for not transmitting COVID by exposure due to returning to school all-in. No additional public comments.

RM is still looking for State guidance on exposure to COVID during crowded activities like recess. There will be many close contacts with the all-in schooling and the State is saying all people at recess may be considered close contacts. Pooled testing will detect COVID but not all families have consented and signed up for continued pooled testing. With all-in, nurses suggesting pooled testing occur on Fridays.

7:05 p.m. SG Motion to adjourn the meeting, second JS roll call JS yes AS yes SG yes. RD yes BM yes 5-0-0

7:05 p.m. Adjourned

Submitted by Board of Health member Susan Green
032921minutes
APPROVED 041221