

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

March 1, 2021

TOWN BUILDING

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Present by remote roll call were John G. Schuler M. D. (JS), Susan Green (SG), Robert DeFrancesco (RD) Chair, Julia Junghanns, (JJ) Director of Public Health, Ruth Mori MSN, RN (RM) Public Health Nurse/School Nurse Leader

5:30 p.m. Open meeting JS – yes, RD-yes, SG – yes

5:32 p.m. Covid-19 Case report, updates and new information

Now have 15 cases in Wayland as of last week. Prior to that, the cases were under 10 each week. There is one case in an assisted living; it is a staff member. All assisted living facilities have had 3 clinics, one will complete their third clinic later this week. The third assisted living had two residents refused the vaccine, rest have been vaccinated. 39 staff vaccinated, 14 declined to be vaccinated. The second assisted living, all residents have been vaccinated, except three who either need a second dose, or resident just moved in. 30% of the staff refused to be vaccinated. The first facility, the one that had the large outbreak, 41 of 42 residents fully vaccinated, 1 refused. 15 employees refused vaccination out of 51, 36 are fully vaccinated. We are coming upon our first anniversary of the first case in Wayland on March 7, 2020.

5:40 p.m. Arne Soslow, M. D. (AS) joined the meeting

AS believes that staff who are not vaccinated or have positive serology should not be working at the congregate facilities. JS differs with AS and believes that the people working at assisted living facilities are not as well compensated as hospital workers who are medical professionals and therefore we can't demand that these workers be vaccinated. AS thinks that there are standards of immunization at other institutions like in schools or hospitals. RM said that we could send a notification that we strongly encourage vaccination at assisted living facilities. There is no legal requirement that a worker at assisted living is required to be vaccinated.

AS: The Wayland Board of Health strongly recommends that employees in Wayland's congregate health care facilities working with senior high risk residents be vaccinated for COVID-19 or have serological immunity to COVID-19. JS: second. AS: yes, JS: yes, SG: yes, RD –yes.

RM says schools are not seeing any in-school transmission. There are no travel related positives, like there were after Christmas break. One student in Wayland tested positive. One staff member at Loker is out with COVID.

Started the testing program that is being paid for by the state. Did a trial run before break and did the next set of tests after break, all pools were negative, but two were inconclusive. Ran one of the pooled tests and it came back positive, reran it and it was negative. This was considered inconclusive, so this pool was tested using the Binex test, an antigen test and all were negative. DPH says no further testing is necessary. Binex was the tie breaker. The testing will take place once a week. RM: There is discussion of having all the students back at school full-time for elementary school after April break.

Heard that teachers are due to be vaccinated in mid-March and that pharmacies will be handling. JJ: Governor says local health departments will not be getting vaccine for more than the second doses. Wayland will not be provided with vaccine to administer to teachers. Hoping to vaccinate home-bound residents and residents of the affordable senior housing authority units.

AS said that it would be good for Wayland to know what percentage of older residents have not been vaccinated and let the state know how many people are still vulnerable and unable to go to the Mass Vax sites. Want this information to be publicized. RM: There are 30+ homebound residents. We are trying to band together with other towns to be a regional site and we are awaiting a decision from the state. Also contacted our legislators to advocate to resume vaccines to be administered by Wayland. Lack of vaccine is also a loss of revenue for towns which would be reimbursed for vaccine

administration. One of our MRC volunteer's letter was published in the Globe on this issue. JJ and RM requested 100 doses for homebound residents but have not heard. RM mentioned the millions of dollars for emergency planning and preparedness that have been spent for towns to be ready for pandemics and other emergencies that are not utilized. AS: Wants numbers of vulnerable people in each towns, to get in front of our legislators. Do this on a weekly basis.

Baker moving into Stage 3, step 2, which allows indoor rec facilities and entertainment at 50% capacity, also libraries, places of worship; restaurants no longer at % capacity, but 6' between tables. Phase 4, step 1, starts March 24th which includes indoor and outdoor arenas at 12% capacity.

6:30 p.m. 105 Plain Road Conservation Cluster Plan, initial comments to the Planning Board

JJ mentioned concerns about a shared septic system because people treat their septic systems differently. Who would be responsible for maintaining it? Concerns about some people dumping paint, or using a disposal or garbage grinder.

MA Bay Transit Authority has property behind the open space portion of the property. This is near the rail trail. JJ doesn't see any wetlands. JS is concerned about area for runoff – would need storm water infiltration area. Fred King is looking at the storm water plan. SG suggested maybe this might be a case where escrow could be helpful because it is a shared system.

6:48 p.m. General business, approve minutes February 8, 2021, approve bills if any

RD: Motion to approve the Feb. 8, 2021 minutes. AS: second roll call JS yes AS yes RD yes SG yes.

JS: Motion to approve the bills submitted. AS: second, roll call JS yes AS yes RD yes SG yes.

6:49 p.m. Topics not reasonably anticipated by the chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting, if any
None.

6:50 p.m. Public comment
None.

Next meeting: March 15th, 5:30 p.m.

SG Motion to adjourn the meeting, JS: second roll call JS yes AS yes RD yes SG yes.

6:51 Adjourned

Submitted by Board of Health member Susan Green