

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
Monday, January 10, 2022  
Virtual Meeting**

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS PRESENT**

Marianne Hartmann, Emily Cilley, Dr. Peter Sheckman

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

None

**OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Jeffrey Vaughan, Director of Public Health and Neia Illingworth, Public Health Nurse

**OPEN MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Marianne Hartmann

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING**

None

**COVID-19 UPDATE**

Neia Illingworth presented a slide of COVID-19 Updates as follows:

- Summary of Data – Total number of COVID-19 **LAB CONFIRMED** cases in Swampscott from July 21, 2021 to January 10, 2022.
- Total of Cumulative cases: Week 12/19/2021- 12/25/2021 / 1,800 confirmed cases
- week 12/26/2021 – 1/1/2022 1,998 total lab confirmed cases.
- Average cases per week from August 2021 to January 1, 2022.
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health Interactive Data Dashboard outlining confirmed cases, test reports, hospitalizations and deaths.
- CDC COVID Data Tracker for Essex County.
- Details of the Omicron Variant which became a new variant on November 26, 2021.

- Changes to Isolation and Quarantine Guidance for the Public effective on 12/29/2021.
- Other Updates/Changes to Isolation and Quarantine Guidance (see links on website).
- What can you do to protect yourself?

Vaughan discussed the different guidelines set by the CDC, the State, schools etc., Cilley voiced concern over the confusion with all the different guidelines set by different organizations. Vaughan disclosed the COVID booster vaccination rates as follows: 5 to 11 year old's 66%, the percentage of fully vaccinated residents is 87% and the number of boosted residents in the town is 46%.

The town is offering a booster clinic to town employees on January 13<sup>th</sup> notice was sent to the schools and boosters will be offered to residents aged 18 years and older. Moderna will be offered at this clinic being held at the the Senior Center. Dr. Sheckman raised the question of a fourth booster being offered to those who are immune compromised. Illingworth says we are waiting for CDC orders and suggests those who may be eligible speak to their primary care physician.

Vaughan discussed the digital vaccine card offered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Residents can obtain a digital vaccine card by logging onto the States website, "My Vax Records" will allow you to access and generate a digital vaccine card.

Hartmann mentioned that at the most recent emergency management meeting she discussed the possibility of resuming PCR testing for employees of the town to get tested more easily. This would probably take place at Phillips at the football field on Humphrey St. staffed by Cataldo Ambulance and the town can use funds from the American Recovery Act.

## **HEALTH DIRECTOR REPORT**

Vaughan discussed the new mattress recycling program offered by the Town. You can purchase a green sticker for \$20 to apply to your mattress for pick up on the second Saturday and the last Saturday of every month and has been active since the end of November, the company picks up the mattresses and puts them in a container behind the DPW. Vaughan says that 80% of the mattress is recyclable. These are taken out of the regular trash stream.

Vaughan also discussed two new restaurants that are scheduled to open soon Nijord Haven (the old Thai Tani), and Pomona on Humphrey Street slated to open sometime in February.

## **OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE BOARD**

Hartmann asked whether or not they have hired a new ACO? Vaughan responded that yes, we do have a full time ACO who is working with the Police Department. Vaughan would also like to re-open the "dogs on field" issue with spring coming.

Dr. Sheckman asked whether there is a problem with children in the schools wearing masks. Cilley and Hartmann said there are really no issues with the implementation of face coverings

Upon implementation of the mask mandate, Vaughan said that he had minimal pushback from the population adhering to this mandate.

## **SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 20, 2021. All Board Members are in agreement.

## **ADJOURN**

On MOTION by Cilley and SECONDED by Sheckman it was VOTED by roll call to adjourn the meeting. Roll call: Cilley (I), Sheckman (I) Hartman (I).

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

True Attest,

Diane E. Folan, Administrative Assistant