

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 8, 2022
Virtual Meeting

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS PRESENT

Marianne Hartmann (late), Emily Cilley, Dr. Peter Sheckman

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT

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

OPEN MEETING

- The meeting was called to order at 6:13 PM.

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS

- Tabled until next meeting.

COVID-19 AND MONKEYPOX UPDATES – presented by Neia Illingworth

Covid-19

- Case data – full presentation can be viewed at <http://tv.swampscottma.gov/CablecastPublicSite/?channel=4>
 - Community transmission rates in Essex County are low
 - Other new variants of Omicron have emerged
- Vaccine updates:
 - 10/12/22: Updated Covid-19 booster shots expanded to children as young as 5
 - 10/19/22: CDC recommends Novavax's Covid shots as mix-and-match first booster to Pfizer and Moderna
 - Upcoming regional bivalent booster clinics
- Testing:
 - Cataldo Ambulance is offering free PCR testing at the North Shore Community College Lynn Campus
 - The State "Stop the Spread" sites will remain open through March 31, 2023. The closest site is in Revere
 - Rapid antigen (at-home) tests may be found at a pharmacy, retail store, or online. At-home tests are covered by insurance, and each person may receive 8 tests per month at no cost

- Stay safe during fall, winter, and holidays! – Get vaccinated, get tested, wear high-quality and well-fitting mask
- Emily Cilley asked if it's recommended to return to PCR testing over antigen? Neia responded that it's up to the individual, but antigen tests still don't always pick up a positive result straight away. If individual is expressing symptoms but is coming up negative on antigen, then they might want to consider PCR.

Monkeypox

- Monkeypox is a rare disease caused by infection with the monkeypox virus, a part of the same family of viruses as variola virus (the virus that causes smallpox).
- Updates
 - 10/26/22 – researchers warn of severe cases in some patients
 - 11/3/22 - study suggests severe before-symptom spreading

HEALTH DIRECTOR REPORT

- Mattress & box spring updates
 - Mattresses, box springs, and textiles can no longer be placed in trash
 - In last year, Town of Swampscott collected 314 mattress and 48 box springs, all but 1 of which went to recycling
 - Residents can contact customer service at Town Hall to get specific sticker
 - Cost fee increase is likely to be ~\$30 per item (versus \$20 last year for both items)
 - Residents are encouraged to have their old mattresses collected by furniture company upon purchase of new mattress
- Saturday, November 12th is pumpkin composting event at DPW yard from 9-11am
- Rodent situation
 - Two live burrows were found today – one on Town property and another on private property
 - Burrows are holes about size of fist, often located along rock walls
 - Hard to say how many rats would be inside one burrow – part of larger, interconnected systems
 - Resident Sheryl Levenson regarding rodents – what kind of pesticides will be used? Town has not yet decided. Bill has moved through State Senate and on its way to House
 - Marianne asked about blood thinner that rats could ingest but it would not affect other animals
 - Sheryl – not in support of blood thinner drug that would make the rats suffer before dying
- Coyote updates
 - Mostly under the jurisdiction of Animal Control officer within the Police Department
 - Marianne – it is a public safety issue but we cannot be responsible for fully eradicating the species
 - Emily – keep educating people on how to defend themselves
- Hazardous waste pickup collection on December 2nd

OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE BOH

- Aggregate Industries
 - Timeline to remain open roughly another 50 years
- Potential Town bylaw change regarding dogs on beach?

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE

- The next meeting has been scheduled for Monday, December 12th, 2022

ADJOURN

- On MOTION by Cilley and SECONDED by Sheckman, it was VOTED by roll call to adjourn the meeting. Roll call: Cilley (yes), Sheckman (yes), Hartmann (yes).
- The meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.

True Attest,

Marissa Meaney