

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 9, 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; Neia Illingworth, Public Health Nurse; Michael McClung, Town Moderator

OPEN MEETING

- The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM.

DISCUSSION WITH TOWN MODERATOR TO DISCUSS TOWN MEETING

- On MOTION from Cilley and SECONDED by Sheckman, the Board voted to take the agenda out of order to begin with the discussion with the Town Moderator Mike McClung regarding Town Meeting.
- McClung asked the Board about the safety at this time of having an in-person Town Meeting.
- McClung announced that Swampscott has the 3rd largest Representative Town Meeting in MA. Because of this and the resulting turnout, hybrid is not a feasible format.
- Marianne asked if we will require masks, vaccines, or pre-meeting testing.
- Sheckman stated that he was in favor of Town Meeting being in-person. Hartmann and Cilley agreed.
- Hartmann asked if Neia and Jeff wanted to provide any input.
- Jeff stated that Town vaccination numbers are great and positive case numbers are minimal so he is in favor of an in-person Town Meeting provided that we remain in a similar position.
- Neia asked if Town Meeting would be inside or outside. McClung stated that he intended to hold it at Swampscott High School, which has the capacity for 3x the number of attendees. Neia stated that given everything discussed (the ability to wear masks, the large capacity), she was in favor provided conditions stay the same.
- McClung asked what the deadline for this decision would be. He stated that the warrant must include the location and that the warrant must go out a certain amount of time prior to the date of Town Meeting. McClung asked if the Board of Health would be willing to

regroup in six weeks. Sheckman asked if it could be discussed at the next regularly scheduled Board of Health meeting. The Board and McClung agreed to discuss it at the April meeting.

- McClung thanked the Board for their time.

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS

- The Board voted to approve meeting minutes from February 8, 2022.
- On MOTION from Sheckman and SECONDED by Cilley, the Board voted by ROLL CALL to approve the minutes listed above. Cilley (yes), Sheckman (yes), Hartmann (yes).

COVID-19 UPDATE - INCLUDING TOWN VACCINATION UPDATE

- We are approaching the two year anniversary of when the World Health Organization declared Covid-19 a global pandemic.
- There was a large surge (over 1000 cases) from December 25, 2021 to January 1, 2022. There have only been 6 in the last week. Neia explained that these numbers are only lab-confirmed cases and do not include those who test positive on a home-test.
- Essex County is now considered an area of moderate transmission.
- Guidance for Isolation and Quarantine are still those effective 1/21/22.
 - Those who are positive and able to mask must stay home and isolate for five days and continue to wear a mask for the next five days.
 - Those who are positive and not able to mask must stay home and isolate for ten days.
 - Those who have been exposed to Covid who are up-to-date on vaccinations and able to mask to covid do not need to quarantine.
 - Those who have been exposed to Covid who are not up-to-date on vaccinations must quarantine for five days after the exposure if they are able to mask and ten days after the exposure if they are not able to mask.
- The MA Stop the Spread locations will stay open until March 31, 2022. As of April 1, 2022, the local Lynn and Revere testing locations will remain open. End date is TBD.
- As of February 22, 2022, additional considerations for an 8-week interval between the first and second doses of a primary mRNA vaccine schedule have been updated in the Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of Covid-19 vaccines. This may be optimal for some people ages 12 years and older, especially for males ages 12-39.
- As of March 3, 2022, 95% of the Swampscott population has received one dose, 90% has received two doses, and 57% of eligible individuals have received a booster dose.
- As of February 25, 2022, the CDC has updated guidance regarding masks based on your area's level of transmission. Those in the green (low) may choose whether or not they want to wear a mask, those in the yellow (moderate) are recommended to wear a mask if you are immunocompromised or live or have social contact with someone at high risk for severe illness, and those in the red (high) are recommended to wear masks.
- Those exposed to Covid in indoor public settings were less likely to test positive for Covid-19 if they were wearing a mask. Cloth mask: 56% lower. Surgical mask: 66% lower. Respirator: 83% lower.

- MA has updated their mask mandates. Masks are no longer required in schools, but individual districts may still require them. They are still required on public transportation, in hospitals, and in congregate care settings.

DISCUSSION / UPDATE FROM GIRLS INC. REGARDING PROGRESS OF REGIONAL YOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE GRANT

- Miriam Kapanadze, a Substance Abuse Coordinator from Girls Inc. joined the meeting to follow up on the Town's Youth Behavior Risk Survey (YBRS) analysis. It has not been done recently.
- Cilley stated that the schools are doing a Mental Health screening.
- Jeff stated that he believes that the YBRS was last done in 2017 and that information can be shared.
- Jeff asked what the next steps are for the Health Department/School Department/Board of Health.

HEALTH DIRECTOR REPORT

- Jeff stated that the Health Department has been receiving a lot of calls about rodents.
- Njord Haven will be opening in the former Thai Thani location on Humphrey Street. They will be receiving a food permit tomorrow.

OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE BOH

- The Board discussed how there is an increase in trash and dog waste left outside when we experience snow.
- Hartmann asked if all signs at Town fields are still intact. Jeff said that he will check.
- Hartmann suggested the new Animal Control Officer come to a future meeting.

SCHEDULING OF NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

- The next meeting has been scheduled for April 6, 2022. 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 (yes), Sheckman (yes), Hartmann (yes).

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 PM.

True Attest,
Brittney Jones