

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2021

Teleconference: 7:00 PM

Present: Holliston Board of Health (BoH): Laura Nolan (*Chair*)
Thomas Ellis (*Vice-Chair*)
Josh Mann (*member*)

Scott Moles, *Health Director and Agent*
Ann Adams, *Health Department Clerk*
Lisa Deering, *Health Department Clerk*

Laura Nolan, BoH Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Scott Moles, Health Director, read the Remote Participation Statement.

Board of Health Roll Call: Laura Nolan-Present, Thomas Ellis-Present, Josh Mann-Present

Public Comment: None

COVID-19 update:

- Total cumulative COVID-19 cases in Town = 652
- Current active COVID-19 cases = 33
- Today is the 1 year anniversary of the first COVID-19 case in MA
- Holliston is a Yellow (moderate) town on the State's COVID-19 risk map.
- The Schools have 9 active cases, 122 cumulative cases
- Tomorrow Scott will be included in the meeting with School Superintendent Kustka regarding school sports.
- Kristin Black, Northborough Health Agent updated Scott on the Northborough Regional MA COVID Vaccine Program application for a COVID-19 clinic at the Northborough Double Tree Hotel. Holliston is still targeted to be included. Kristin will try to get their application to the State by next week.
- This proposed Northborough clinic will not get vaccine for at least 3 weeks. There are vaccine delays as the State is prioritizing the large super-vaccination sites.
- This Northborough clinic is targeting vaccinating 750 per day. Gillette is vaccinating 4,000 per day.
- Linda Marshall, Senior Center Director, reported the COA got \$34,000 for transportation of residents to COVID-19 clinics.
- Josh and Thomas expressed frustration at not having a local COVID-19 clinic.
- Laura cautioned that if we ran a local clinic that it would not exclusively service Holliston residents as the State requires clinics to be regional.
- Scott explained that we don't have the storage facilities for Moderna and Pfizer vaccines. The J&J vaccine is just coming on line.
- Holliston was in a local consortium for the first responders. Having less than 200 first responders meant we were not eligible to have a clinic on our own.
- Thomas & Josh wanted to be creative about where we could have a local clinic, perhaps the Schools, the Senior Center or CVS.
- Laura said it wasn't appropriate for municipal vaccine to be administered at CVS (a business).

- The Board asked if the School nurses or Salmon VNA could administer COVID-19 vaccine at a Town clinic. Scott will look into this again. In the past Salmon said they weren't doing clinics. The School nurses have not traditionally staffed our flu clinics.
- Thomas wants to know what other towns are doing, specifically Hopkinton and Natick. The Natick clinic was early on. Now clinics must be available to all MA residents, like the Hopkinton clinic.
- Scott said that many towns have emergency medical employees (not volunteers) who can give shots. Holliston has a volunteer fire department.
- Scott can speak to Mike Cassidy, Fire Chief regarding a Town clinic.
- The emergency medical persons would have to volunteer when they were off duty.
- Josh and Thomas want Scott to look into the logistics of a Town run clinic. They feel that residents will volunteer to help.
- Scott reminded the Board of the support services being provided by Linda Marshall's Senior Center for getting appointments and transportation. There are still some seniors who are home-bound needing shots to be brought to them that Scott will try to look into.
- Thomas felt that we should look into doing COVID-19 clinics monthly for the rest of the year, saying, "We need to do what's best for our residents."
- Josh said the school component, vaccinating the educators, is important so the schools can be fully opened.
- In the past, the seasonal flu vaccination of Holliston educators averaged 150 to 180 individuals taking vaccinations.
- Scott said the teachers were looking into getting vaccinated as a group at Keefe Tech.
- Laura asked Scott to reach out to the Schools to get a count of educators who would take the vaccine.
- Laura asked if that group of educators can include day-care workers.
- Josh asked if the Board should write a letter to the Governor regarding moving the educators up in priority.
- At this point vaccinations are opened to residents 65 years and older, and residents with 2 or more comorbidities.
- There is still the administration paperwork that would need to be submitted to the MIIS system that has not been completed. Pharmacies and medical facilities have this paperwork done automatically via software, as they do vaccine administration routinely as part of their business.
- Scott said the COVID-19 restrictions are being reduced. He outlined the changes.
- Masks are still required, and travel advisories have no change. There won't be substantial changes until the end of March.
- Laura said it is important that as a town we remain diligent and follow stringent protocols to limit COVID-19 cases.

FY'22 Budget Meeting with FinCom:

The BoH will meet with the Finance Committee March 16, 2021 at 8:05 pm, the same night as our BoH meeting. The BoH meeting start time is 6:30 PM to facilitate transitioning to the Finance Committee meeting. It is important to be there early in case the first 2 departments on the FinCom's agenda go quickly.

Scott will speak with Michelle Zeamer, Finance Committee Liaison to the BoH, before that meeting.

Farmers Market:

Bobby Blair is planning on restarting a Farmers Market in Holliston. He is using the Hopkinton Farmers Market's Rules of Operation as a model. Holliston Farmers Market will be Sundays from mid-June to October, 9 AM to 1 PM. Hopkinton Farmers Market is Sunday afternoons, year round. Food permits will be required for vendors. They can get the temporary food permit (\$75) if less than 5 days, or the seasonal food permit (\$100) if more than 5 days.

Residential Kitchens:

From an earlier phone meeting, Len Izzo, Holliston Food Inspector, gave guidance on residential kitchens in Holliston. The State Food Code says that Residential kitchens are only allowed to prepare "cottage food operations" which are potentially non-hazardous foods; foods that do not require refrigeration or heat to keep safe. Residential kitchens are currently not permitted in Holliston.

Len has only one Residential Kitchen in Wellesley at this time, making power bars. He did say residential kitchen will be more problematic in Holliston because of our private septic systems. Bakeries with their flour are tough on private septic systems.

There is still the Holliston Zoning By-Laws that would restrict residential kitchens to the "Village Commercial" zone. So the Building Inspector will need to be involved before residential kitchens could be considered in most of Town.

Open Position on Board of Health:

There is an open position on the Board of Health. Nomination papers can be pulled from the Town Clerk and must be returned by April 1st with 50 valid voter signatures for the candidate to be listed on the election ballot.

Bills: Amazon, case of 1 gallon sharps containers \$97.97

Laura made a motion to approve the Amazon bill for \$97.97.

Thomas seconded. Roll call: Laura Aye, Thomas-Aye, Josh-Aye. Passed

BoH Meeting Minutes: Laura made a motion to approve the February 16, 2021 BoH Minutes.

Thomas seconded. Roll call: Laura Aye, Thomas-Aye, Josh-Aye. Passed

Board Comment: None

Next BoH Meetings: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 6:30 PM, via Zoom Teleconference.

Laura motioned to close the meeting at 7:34 PM. Thomas seconded.

Roll call: Laura- Aye, Thomas-Aye, Josh-Aye. Passed

Respectfully:

Ann Adams, Health Department Clerk

Approval Date: 3-16-21