

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2021

Present: Holliston Board of Health (BoH): Thomas Ellis (*Chair*)
Josh Mann (*ViceChair*)
Jay Leary (*member*)

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

Brian Moran, Covanta Compliance Officer for Holliston
Fire Chief Michael Cassidy, Emergency Management Director

Thomas Ellis, BoH Chair, opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Scott read the Remote Participation Statement.

Board of Health Roll Call: Thomas Ellis-present, Josh Mann-present, Jay Leary-present

Public Comment: None

Beach Water Testing: Pleasure Point and Stoddard Park both exceeded the bacteria requirements so they are being retested. The results will be in Thursday afternoon.

Mosquitoes: Holliston was alerted that there were mosquitoes testing positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) in abutting communities. There are no cases in humans or animals yet. Scott will send out the appropriate announcement and preventative actions to be taken by residents to stay safe. At this point there are no positive tests for Eastern Equine Encephalitis.

68 Maple Dell Lane – Septic System upgrade complaint:

- Jay Leary wanted to have the abutting neighbor to 68 Maple Dell Lane come to the meeting to voice his complaint about inspections of the sump pump hose effluent.
- Joe Kenneally, 74 Maple Dell Lane, explained his frustration with the effluent coming onto his property and the discussions with the Health Agent regarding that effluent.
- Collin Mayo-Fiske, Installer of the 68 Maple Dell Lane system explained the problem and the resolution that was reached.
- Scott Moles explained his view of the communications.
- The Board discussed the installation and problem resolution, being sure that there are no health concerns; that this was a case of miscommunication.
- Everyone agreed that there are no health concerns with the handling of the sump pump water.
- The Board thanked Joe and Collin for coming in.

COVID-19 update:

- Total cumulative COVID-19 cases in Town = 836, with 24 active cases.
- Holliston remains a green (moderate risk) town on the State's COVID-19 risk map.
- 77% of the Town are fully vaccinated.
- The Schools are examining the procedures needed for reopening.
- DESI will provide guidelines to the Schools.
- Josh voiced concern regarding the breakthrough cases of COVID-19 in town, the need for booster shots and pushed for considering a mask mandate in Town.

- Chief Cassidy said that the Town is still in good shape. That our numbers are still well below the State average of cases, and our vaccination rate is good. He did not feel it was the time to have a mask mandate.
- The Board discussed the data and trends and when it would be appropriate to consider a mask mandate.
- If the numbers dictate, the Board can meet at any time to revisit the need for a mask mandate.
- Jay wanted to discuss encouraging more vaccination in Town. He said his company has a vaccination mandate, requiring all employees to be vaccinated by the end of September.
- Chief Cassidy said there are less than 350 people in town who are eligible for vaccination who have not gotten at least one shot.
- Jay asked about enforcement of the mask mandate when it was in effect. Chief Cassidy said the Local BoH and Police had policies to ticket violations, but no tickets were given, in favor of focusing on encouragement and education.
- Chief Cassidy suggested that we not create our own mask mandate but explore the guidance of the CDC, so that we have a defensible face covering policy.
- Currently face coverings are required on public transportation, medical and congregate care facilities.
- The Board agreed that the public health is their chief concern.
- They will keep an eye on the data trends and act accordingly.

Covanta Trash Complaint:

- The Health Department received a letter and box of trash from Andy Bell, 37 Locust Street, a neighbor of the Covanta Transfer Station, 115 Washington Street.
- Andy's letter was shared with:
 - the BoH
 - Brian Moran, Covanta Compliance Officer
 - Travis Ahern, Town Administrator
 - Tom Stanwood, Covanta Transfer Station Manager
- Tom Stanwood replied that they are taking litter very seriously. He couldn't attend the BoH meeting but will meet with them upon his return to Town.
- David Stevens, Covanta, said they've assigned extra people to clean up trash.
- Brian Moran spoke about his inspections and Covanta's efforts to pick up trash.
- Jay suggested Covanta document their daily trash pick-up efforts, and possibly using camera surveillance.
- Brian explained how trash can fall off a truck and how the Police can fine the trucks for littering, if they catch them. It isn't always easy to know who dropped what trash.
- The Board discussed trash in Town and the efforts to clean it up.

9 Green Street update: The Smith Row well testing has predated testing of 3 adjacent parcels. The State has issued a notice of action for one of them. Brian Moran said the Town has a reportable concentration at 29 Central Street. It is not a public health concern at this time. The remediation if necessary would be similar to Radon remediation. James Keast, Holliston Facilities Manager is continuing with the teardown of 9 Green Street.

Food Permit Regulation draft: The Board have the draft of the proposed Food Permit Regulations. They would like to meet with Len Izzo, Food Inspector before having a public hearing regarding implementation. It would be good to have changes implemented by December for the 2022 permitting process.

Local Upgrade Approval (LUA) Requests: will be brought to the next meeting.

Bills: The following bill was discussed:

Amazon- Gallon Sharps containers, 32 count

\$118.54

Jay made a motion to approve the Amazon bill. Josh seconded.

Roll Call: Thomas Ellis-Aye, Josh Mann-Aye, Jay Leary-Aye

Minutes: Jay made a motion to approve the minutes from July 20, 2021. Josh seconded.

Roll Call: Thomas Ellis-Aye, Josh Mann-Aye, Jay Leary-Aye

BoH Meeting Schedule: The Board discussed the next meeting timing and format for August 24 to be Hybrid again.

Board Comment: The Board asked about the air quality at the schools with their eminent opening. Chief Cassidy spoke about the efforts the school has and are taking for air quality and safety.

Thomas made a motion at 8:35 PM to adjourn the BoH meeting. Jay seconded. Passed.

Roll Call: Thomas Ellis-Aye, Josh Mann-Aye, Jay Leary-Aye

Respectfully:

Ann Adams, Health Department Clerk

Approval Date: