

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

November 9, 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*
Lisa Deering, *Health Department Clerk*

Cynthia Listewnik, *Holliston School Committee Chair*

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

COVID-19 update:

- Total cumulative COVID-19 cases in Town=990, active cases 25
- Holliston remains at yellow risk level by the State's COVID-19 designation.
- The mask mandate for municipal buildings continues through December 7, 2021.
- There has been an uptick in cases in Town over last week.

Town Clinics:

- Holliston Public Schools staff had a seasonal flu clinic Friday, November 5th at the 4 school buildings, with immunizers from MetroWest Pharmacy. Of the 120 shots initially requested, they vaccinated 68 staff with 1 being High-dose (65 year old+).
- Senior Center is partnering with MetroWest Pharmacy and having a COVID-19 booster clinic December 8th. Pre-registration is required. The Health Department is helping with advertising.
- MetroWest Pharmacy is facilitating a Town flu clinic on Saturday, November 20th, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Scott and the Board members are working that walk-in clinic.
- Wednesday, November 10th, Scott will be working a COVID-19 clinic at the Ashland High School from 4 to 8 that will primarily vaccinate 5 to 11 year olds.
- Scott is working with Fallon and the Schools on a clinic targeted at vaccinating the 5 to 11 year olds.

Health Department Staff changes are underway as one clerk is retiring December 1. A candidate has been identified and will be offered the position. Scott will keep the Board posted.

Local Upgrade Approval for 667 Highland Street septic system upgrade will be presented at the next meeting.

9 Green Street pre-demolition meeting with the Town happens soon, and is followed by asbestos abatement.

Town Hall upgrades - James Keast, Facilities Director is managing these projects:

- Town Hall Septic system upgrade will begin next week and be completed before Christmas
- New storm windows are in the process of being installed
- New key locks are being wired and folks will need to get new keys/entry cards. Details to follow.

Tobacco Compliance: The tobacco retailers in Town were notified of the 2 compliance violations and the continued compliance checks. The information stimulated good response. Olivia Dufour, Tobacco Compliance Manager is always available for education and support. Olivia left additional tobacco literature with the Health Department should any retailer want more.

Bills: The following bill was explained:

Med-Tech Resource Inc. – Case of quart sharps containers **\$127.82**
This bill was signed for by Scott as it was put on the Town credit card.

Minutes: Thomas made a motion to approve the minutes from October 26, 2021. Josh seconded.

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

COVID-19 at the Schools:

- Jay asked Cynthia Listewnik, Holliston School Committee Chair, about the cases of COVID-19 in the Schools. Cynthia explained that there has been an uptick in the number of cases that has been linked to the Middle School and a Halloween party.
- She did say the 5 to 11 year olds have shown rapid response to get COVID-19 vaccinated. The Ashland clinic (November 10th) doses that were offered were “sold out” in 45 minutes. There are 1,600 students that are in that 5 to 11 year old population.
- Josh asked about the School Department’s metrics to remove the mask mandate. Cynthia outlined the process metrics and DESE requirements. The School Committee is discussing this at their next meeting. January 15th is the next review of the School mask mandate.
- November 14 is the deadline for the School staff to be COVID-19 vaccinated. Currently 90% of the staff are vaccinated.
- At last count, 80% of the High School students are vaccinated.
- Middle School has 8th, 7th and a few of the 6th graders who could previously be vaccinated.
- The vaccination of the 5 to 11 year olds will complete the grades K through 6.
- Cynthia mentioned that colleges have shown that mask mandates and high vaccination rates still doesn’t guarantee no COVID-19 cases, as there are breakthrough cases. But in the case of colleges, they have on-line learning options for those students. Massachusetts’s schools don’t currently have on-line options, so it is imperative Holliston Schools continue to be diligent in preventing COVID-19 cases and transmission to ensure continued learning without interruption.
- Lisa Deering will include Cynthia on the email list of the weekly COVID-19 case counts.
- The Board thanked Cynthia for providing this information and for attending the meeting.

Next BoH Meeting is November 23, 2021.

Board Comment: none

Thomas made a motion at 7:26 PM to adjourn the BoH meeting. Jay seconded.

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

Respectfully:

Ann Adams, Health Department Clerk

Approval Date: