

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

December 7, 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*
Kristin Abraham, *Health Department Clerk*

Cynthia Listewnik, *Holliston School Committee Chair*
Stacey Raffi, *Holliston School Committee Representative*

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

Health Department Staff: Kristin Abraham is the new Principal Clerk in the Health Department the position. She started November 29th.

49 Central Street – housing issue:

- Scott sent an enforcement order on 11-23-21 to 49 Central Street to address housing deficiencies.
- The landlord, Vasu Brown was required to respond by 12-7-21. She has not responded.
- Scott said the next step is to proceed with a court injunction.
- The Board and Scott discussed the details of the property and tenant.

Thomas made a motion to proceed with going to Town Counsel regarding the 49 Central Street enforcement order. Josh seconded.

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

COVID-19 update:

- Total cumulative COVID-19 cases in Town=1081, active cases=30
- Holliston remains at yellow risk level by the State's COVID-19 designation.
- The positivity rate has gone up in Holliston, but is still below the State.
- Scott will run the MAVEN COVID-19 case number, including breakthrough cases and get them to the Board.
- The State said that Omicron variant is in Middlesex County.
- The Board discussed the current mask mandate for municipal building in Town.

Thomas made a motion to extend the mask mandate for municipal buildings in Holliston until 1-19-22. Josh seconded.

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

Holliston Public Schools COVID-19:

- Cynthia said that at the last School update there were 25 cases of COVID-19 in the Holliston Public Schools. She will get new numbers on Thursday.
- The Schools will review their mask mandate on 1-15-22.
- Cynthia said the School vaccination rates are good: High School=88%, Middle School 60% (Lower because the 6th graders have just become eligible for vaccination).
- Cynthia said the schools are doing pooled testing with a test & stay model.
- The indoor sports athletes and coaches must wear masks per the MIIA.
- Josh offered the BoH's support to the Schools if we could help with any regulations.
- Cynthia thanked the Board for their support and will get back to them as needed.
- Stacey and Cynthia felt that any vaccination mandate should come from the State rather than the local BoH (no offense intended) as the State officials "make their livelihood" in doing Public Health policy, and would carry more weight.

Town Clinics:

- Senior Center is partnering with MetroWest Pharmacy and having a COVID-19 booster clinic December 8th. Currently there are 136 persons registered.
- Scott is working with Fallon to administer 300 doses of COVID-19 in the Holliston Schools to 5 to 11 year olds. The Board discussed the timing of this clinic. Scott said he will investigate their recommendations and get back to them.

Arcadian Farms, 258 Norfolk Street composting was discussed. Scott met with Arcadian Farms owner Christine Chabot and Joyce Hastings, GLM Engineering to discuss the details. Arcadian has applied with the State Department of Agriculture for the composting. Their intent is to use it to turn the turf out front back into farmable land. Christine will check the temperatures in the compost and turn the pile every few days, being sure to mitigate any odor issues. GLM will track the volume of the compost brought in.

Health Director Annual Evaluation: Scot will give his self-evaluation to Thomas tomorrow. The Board members can give their director evaluations to the Human Resources Department. The compilation of the Board members' feedback will be reviewed with Scott, Thomas and Travis Ahern, Town Administrator in mid-January.

164 Westfield Drive property receivership will be investigated with the Attorney General's office as the property owner has passed away with no heirs. The intent is to secure the run-down property and to expedite the process through probate court. Jay suggested idea of converting it to affordable housing for the Town.

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

- Town Hall Septic system upgrade is progressing. They need to get a different tank so the timing has been delayed.
- New storm windows installation is almost completed.
- New key locks for Town Hall are still in progress. Scott will keep the Board posted.

Bills: None

Minutes: Thomas made a motion to approve the minutes from November 23, 2021. Jay seconded.

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

Next BoH Meeting is December 21, 2021.

Board Comment: The Board welcomes Kristin Abraham to the Health Department.

Thomas made a motion at 8:05 PM to adjourn the BoH meeting. Josh seconded.

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

Respectfully:

Ann Adams, Health Department Clerk

Approval Date: 12-21-21