

# Board of Health Meeting Minutes

## March 1, 2022

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

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

Fire Chief Michael Cassidy, *Emergency Management Director*  
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:**

- There are 11 active cases of COVID-19 in Town bringing the cumulative total to 2227.
- The number of active cases and positivity rate are declining.
- Holliston lowered to a yellow risk level by the State's COVID-19 designation.
- Holliston's vaccination rate is good.
- The State has reduced its mask advisory to the CDC mask advisory guidelines.

### **Holliston Public Schools COVID-19 update:**

- Cynthia Listewnik, Holliston School Committee Chair, gave the COVID-19 update for the Holliston Public Schools.
- There are 23 COVID-19 cases at the Schools, per the February 24th Superintendent's report.
- This is the first week back from February break and the students are wearing masks this week as a transition to "masks optional" starting March 7<sup>th</sup>. This transitional week will allow for testing to catch any COVID-19 cases from vacation week travel, and will allow the Schools to discuss mask choice tolerance with the students.
- Transitioning to "mask optional" after 2 years of wearing masks, it is important to prepare the students for dealing appropriately with different people making masking choices that is right for them, i.e. masking optional without judgement.
- Vaccination rates are high; 83% across all grades. The High School has the highest rate with only 1 student not vaccinated.
- Thursday's School meeting will discuss bus masking policy.
- Pooled testing continues on Mondays, and rapid at-home testing on Fridays.

**COVID-19 Mask Advisory:**

- Boston is voting tonight on reducing their mask advisory to following the CDC guidelines.
- The Board said the COVID-19 numbers are down and they are comfortable with removing the current Holliston mask advisory.

**Josh motioned to remove the current mask advisory effective 3-2-22. Jay seconded.**

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

**FY-23 Budget:** The Finance Committee accepted the FY'23 Health Department budget. Travis Ahern, Town Administrator will be getting back to the Board with feedback.

**Housing issue:** Scott updated the Board on the foreclosure at 33 Cheryl Lane. Youth and Family Services was instrumental in obtaining housing for the individual.

**Covanta issues:** The last snow storm caused problems at the Covanta Transfer Station: Snow plow piles broke the fence and freezing weather broke the bay door. Both of these will get fixed ASAP.

**Marshall Street Landfill Solar Farm** post closure use report was received and construction is back on schedule. Soltech plans to break ground in the fall with construction taking 12 to 14 months, completing at the end of 2023.

**Central Street issues:**

- *49 Central Street* tenant is safely relocated. There will be no occupancy until there is a reinspection. A court date will be set for the landlord.
- *75 Central Street* tight tank will be installed by Pat Trufant when the weather permits. There will be no occupancy of the building until the tight tank is installed.

**Bills:** The following bills were discussed:

**Salmon VNA – COVID-19 cases (paid thru ARPA) \$8,207.50**

**Thomas motioned to approve the Salmon VNA bill. Jay seconded.**

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

**Stantec- Covanta Compliance Officer – Brian Moran (paid by Covanta) \$920.00**

**Thomas motioned to approve the Stantec bill. Jay seconded.**

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

**Stericycle -Sharps containers pick-up (funded by E.L. Harvey) \$140.00**

**Thomas motioned to approve the Stericycle bill. Jay seconded.**

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

**Minutes:** Thomas made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 15, 2022.

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

**Public Comment continued:** Thomas recognized Liz Theiler-Bourque, 17 Norland Street, had entered the meeting after the Public Comment time and asked if she wanted to speak. She had 2 items:

- Liz felt the Health Director should have walked the mask advisory signs around to each business. The Board members each said that was not expected or appropriate.
- Liz wondered why the Health Department is paying for the Covanta Compliance Officer. Scott explained that Covanta provides the funding for the Compliance Officer, but the Board of Health votes to approve the payment of the invoices.

**Next BoH Meeting** is March 15, 2022.

**Board Comment:** None

**Thomas made a motion at 7:30 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: 3-15-22