

# Board of Health Meeting Minutes

## October 25, 2022

**Present:** Holliston Board of Health (BoH): Josh Mann (*Chair*)  
Jay Leary (*Vice-Chair*)  
Peter Liffiton (*member*)

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

Jackie Winer, *Holliston Youth and Family Services Director, Holliston Drug and Alcohol Awareness Coalition Program Director*  
Cynthia Listewnik, *Holliston School Committee*

Josh Mann, BoH, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Scott Moles read the Remote Participation Statement.

Board of Health Roll Call: Josh Mann – present, Jay Leary - present, Peter Liffiton - present

**Public Comment:** None. Ten members of the public were present.

### **Tobacco Regulations Revisions:**

- The Town Meeting petition passed unanimously to delay changes to the tobacco regulations regarding number of tobacco permits and allowing a smoking bar.
- The BoH received letters from the American Heart Association and the Holliston Drug and Alcohol Awareness Coalition (HDAAC) supporting tobacco regulations that restrict access.
- Cheryl Sbarra Massachusetts Association of Health Boards, and Olivia Dufour, Holliston Tobacco Control Program Manager, could not be at this meeting due to prior obligations.
- Cheryl sent a memorandum to the BoH clarifying information regarding the regulation revisions.
- Jay suggested if Towns people are so against tobacco, then maybe Holliston shouldn't sell tobacco at all.
- Peter said that sale of tobacco could be important revenue for tobacco retail shops; those shops are valuable to the community, as they are a convenient location for residents to get what they need.
- Peter suggested the BoH take action on the fees and penalties to align with the State as Josh had suggested at the previous meeting. Josh had not wanted to act on allowing smoking bars until the zoning issues were resolved; the Planning Board has no interest in carving out regulations to allow a smoking bar. Don't mess with what's been successful so far.
- Barbara Ryan, 14 Irving Place, thanked the BoH for continuing the conversation regarding tobacco regulations. She said that CVS stopped selling tobacco products and have initiated programs to encourage tobacco cessation.
- Jay said that the decision for CVS to stop selling tobacco was a regulation issued by the Pharmacy Board.
- Michelle Zeamer, 583 Winter Street, said that Brookline, starting in 2021, stopped sale of tobacco products to 21 year olds and will increase the age yearly until there is no tobacco sold in town.
- Jay said smoking is not smart, but tobacco is a legal product and should be allowed to be sold.
- Josh said he agreed with Peter's suggestion regarding doing the regulation revisions for the fees and penalties only at this time.

- Jay said he didn't disagree. But if the BoH wants to be bold they can talk about not selling tobacco in Town.
- The process for a regulation change would be:
  - A proposed tobacco regulation will be generated with BoH agreed upon revisions: to align with the State's penalties and fees, and codify the 3 day suspension for the first violation of sale to a minor that the BoH decided on.
  - This proposed regulation will get sent to the BoH well ahead of the next meeting for their review.
  - If this proposed regulation is acceptable to the BoH, they can request a public hearing.
  - The public hearing will be advertised as required prior to the hearing date.
  - At the public hearing, residents will be welcomed to discuss the proposed regulations. If they want to discuss other topics, that would happen not during this public hearing.
  - The BoH can continue the public hearing as long as they feel necessary.
  - Once they close the public hearing the BoH can discuss and vote on this regulation.
- If the BoH did nothing regarding these regulation revisions, the State's stricter fees and penalties would prevail. The one difference is that BoH would need to vote on the number of days of suspension for any first violation of sale to a minor.
- The BoH agreed that they want to see a draft tobacco regulation that aligns the fees and suspensions with the State and codifies the 3 day suspension for the first violation of sale to a minor.
- Josh thanked the public for their input and for attending the meeting.

#### **COVID-19 update:**

- There are 9 active cases of COVID-19 in Town bringing the cumulative total to 2884.
- Holliston dispensed 7,560 COVID tests to Town residents through the Town Hall, Library, Senior Center, Pantry Shelf, Cole Court, Mission Spring, Veterans Agent, Youth and Family Services, and others to the most at risk populations in Town.
- Scott reported that at the State level, respiratory illness (RSV) and the flu are presenting at the schools more than COVID at this time.
- Cynthia Listewnik, Holliston School Committee said that locally RSV is in the day cares but not at the Public Schools so much.

#### **Clinics:**

- Cynthia Listewnik asked if there would be a local flu clinic. Scott said a request for a flu clinic was sent to Shivang Patel, MetroWest Pharmacy who ran our flu clinic last year, but nothing is scheduled so far.
- Jay asked Scott to look into having COVID booster clinics.

**Mosquito** activity is done, as we had a hard frost.

#### **Housing:**

- 53 Wingate Road:
  - Scott spoke with the owner's son regarding making progress on securing 53 Wingate Road. It is locked up, but in disrepair. Scott will meet with him on Friday November 4th and get a timeframe for further progress.
  - Maura Snow, 68 Wingate Road, said that 53 Wingate Road has been a neighborhood problem for 15 years. The neighbors have made many calls to the Town regarding it.
  - Scott said it is a nuisance but the owners have paid their taxes. The gutters are falling off and rodents are having more access.

- Jay said rodent infestation affects neighbors and perhaps the owners need to get called before the BoH.
- Cynthia Listewnik, 72 Anne Marie Drive, said the interior of the house is not safe for entry.
- Scott said he is aware of the interior condition and will have the Building Inspector with him for a site visit.
- Scott will keep the Board apprised of the situation.
- 55 Norfolk Street
  - Scott and the Building Inspector went on a site visit with the owner.
  - The 2 sheds in question have been emptied of the food that was causing the mouse infestation.
  - The structural integrity of the sheds needs to be addressed. Either the sheds should be taken down or the owner needs to pull a building permit to have them repaired.

**Minutes: Josh made a motion to approve the BoH meeting minutes from October 11, 2022.**  
**Jay seconded. Roll Call: Josh Mann- Aye, Jay Leary-Aye, Peter -Aye Passed.**

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

**Josh made a motion to approve the UniBank bill for on-line payments: \$6.00**  
**Jay seconded. Roll Call: Josh Mann- Aye, Jay Leary-Aye, Peter-Aye. Passed.**

**Josh made a motion to approve the Salmon VNA bill for: Total = \$1,423.75**  
**COVID paid by American Recovery Plan Act = \$1,356.75**  
**Non-COVID paid by BoH = \$67.00**  
**Jay seconded. Roll Call: Josh Mann- Aye, Jay Leary-Aye, Peter-Aye. Passed.**

**Josh made a motion to approve the Stantec bill for Covanta Compliance Officer: \$2,435.25**  
**Jay seconded. Roll Call: Josh Mann- Aye, Jay Leary-Aye, Peter-Aye. Passed.**

**BoH Meeting dates:** The next BoH meeting is November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The BoH discussed other dates to meet and decided to wait and see if another November meeting was needed.

**Board Comment:**

- Peter said he watched the Town Meeting and was surprised that only 100 residents were present.
- Jay had attended and said that it was a typical attendance; only if there is something big do they get a larger turnout.
- Peter said the populous must be happy with how the Town is run.

**Josh made a motion to adjourn the BoH meeting at 8:00 PM. Jay seconded.**  
**Roll Call: Josh Mann- Aye, Jay Leary-Aye, Peter -Aye Passed.**

Respectfully:  
 Ann Adams, Health Department Clerk

Approval Date: 11-22-22