

# Board of Health Meeting Minutes

## March 14, 2023

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

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

Josh Mann, BoH, Chairperson, 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

### **COVID-19 and seasonal flu update:**

- There are 0 active cases (reported to the State) of COVID-19 in Town bringing the cumulative total to 3085.
- The Health Department has 12 cases of COVID-19 test kits (180 tests per case) to give residents free of charge. They are available at Town Hall, Library, Senior Center, Pantry Shelf and other locations.
- Scott will find out when communicable disease tracking of COVID-19 by Salmon VNA is no longer required by the State. The Board is concerned about paying for this work when American Recovery Plan Act grant money runs out. In addition, they don't see the benefit of tracking COVID-19 cases at this point. This cost of tracking was a risk that was included in the Board of Health FY'24 Budget narrative.

### **Inspector of Animals Nomination:**

- The Board was briefed on the role of the Inspector of Animals versus Animal Control Officers.
- Currently Dona Walsh, Justine Grassey and Scott Moles are our Holliston Inspector of Animals, dealing primarily with domesticated livestock.
- Dona and Justine are our Holliston Animal Control Officers that Holliston shares with Ashland. Animal Control Officers enforce the Holliston By-law animal regulations, and can write violations.
- Justine Grassey has completed our State required Holliston Barn Book, and it will be mailed to the State.
- The Inspector of Animal nomination papers are due to the State Division of Animal Health, Department of Agricultural Resources by April 1.

**Josh made a motion to nominate Dona Walsh, Justine Grassey and Scott Moles as Holliston Inspector of Animals. Jay seconded. Roll Call: Josh Mann- Aye, Jay Leary-Aye, Peter -Aye Passed.**

**Animal Regulations:** The draft animal regulations will be reviewed by the new members of the Agricultural Commission as soon as they reconvene. They will work with Justine Grassey, Animal Inspector to ensure making it an effective working document. The Board will be updated as it progresses.

**Town Meeting and Budget:** Holliston Town Meeting is May 15<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Health FY'24 budget was accepted by Travis Ahern, Town Administrator, and the Finance Committee, and is ready for Town Meeting.

**Housing:**

- 164 Westfield Drive has a housing court date of April 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM, and will be posted for the required 10 days as the Massachusetts Attorney General is done with the paperwork and has found no heirs. Jay asked Scott to be sure the Affordable Housing Committee is aware of the receivership possibility.
- 53 Wingate Road was sold by the neighbor (who had bought it from the original owners) who had said he was going to fix it up. Scott will meet with the newest owners regarding repairs and septic system upgrade that is required.

**Mattress Disposal Ban:** In November the State issued a ban on the disposing of mattresses in municipal waste as it requires additional costs to compress the bulk. There was a mattress tossed curbside in Town that had to be collected by the Highway Department. The Town will need to plan for managing this situation, as it is likely to recur.

**Covanta Transfer Station** had their gates open on Saturday and there were 2 complaints regarding it. Covanta Compliance Officer Brian Moran investigated the situation and found Covanta was holding a safety class. They were not open for receiving waste, and there was security on site.

**Holliston Septic Installer Permit** for Dave Brown will not be pursued as Mr. Brown's family is experiencing a medical situation. He asked Scott to extend his apology to the Board for missing the last BoH meeting that addressed his permit request.

**Minutes:** Josh made a motion to approve the BoH meeting minutes from February 28, 2023.  
**Jay seconded. Roll Call: Josh Mann- Aye, Jay Leary-Aye, Peter -Aye Passed.**

**Bill:** The following bill was discussed and approved:

**Josh made a motion to approve the Salmon VNA bill for: Total = \$1088.75**

**All COVID cases, paid by American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA)**

**Jay seconded. Roll Call: Josh Mann- Aye, Jay Leary-Aye, Peter-Aye. Passed.**

**Board Comment:** Jay asked Scott about the on-line permitting options for the Health Department that had been inquired about by the Finance Committee. Scott said he is working on it and will get back to the Board soon.

**Josh made a motion to adjourn the BoH meeting at 7:25 PM. Jay seconded.**  
**Roll Call: Josh Mann- Aye, Jay Leary-Aye, Peter -Aye Passed.**

Respectfully:  
Ann Adams, Health Department Clerk

Approval Date: 3-2-23