

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

August 31, 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*

Fire Chief Michael Cassidy, Emergency Management Director

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

Minutes: Thomas made a motion to approve the minutes from August 19, 2021. Josh seconded.

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

Bills: The following bills were discussed:

Stantec – Covanta Compliance Officer, Brian Moran **\$460.00**
Jay made a motion to approve the Stantec bill. Thomas seconded.
Roll Call: Thomas Ellis-Aye, Josh Mann-Aye, Jay Leary-Aye

Salmon VNA – July contagious disease **\$2,479.00**
COVID-19 **\$2,211.00**
BoH **\$268.00**
Jay made a motion to approve the Salmon VNA bill. Thomas seconded.
Roll Call: Thomas Ellis-Aye, Josh Mann-Aye, Jay Leary-Aye

Jay made a motion to request \$9,000 CARES funding to cover COVID-19 expenses through October 31, 2021. Thomas seconded.

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

Celebrate Holliston requested a food permit fee waiver since they are a non-profit group promoting our Town. The Board discussed the request.

Jay made a motion to waive the food permit fee for Celebrate Holliston. Thomas seconded.

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

COVID-19 update:

- Total cumulative COVID-19 cases in Town=878, active cases 16
- Holliston remains a yellow risk level by the State's COVID-19 designation.
- Number of cases has decreased since the last meeting from 34 to 16.

- Mike Cassidy said the cases are down across the State. Jay asked if he expects the numbers to increase with the start of School. Mike didn't expect an increase since there is a universal mask policy at the schools.

COVID-19 Mask Discussion – Community Input

- The Board invited community input regarding face covering policy in Town.
- For simplicity, the word “mask” is to be used in place of “face coverings” in this discussion.
- James Keast, 104 Fairview Street and Holliston Facilities Manager, spoke about mask wearing in Town building. The public entering the building should wear masks. When employees are in common spaces with the public masks would be appropriate. In their work space/offices when they are socially distanced masks would not be required. It would be appropriate that employees wear masks when interacting with customers, with the exception if dealing with a hearing problem.
- The Board agreed that an indoors mask mandate in municipal buildings was a good idea. Holliston doesn't have lots of tourists/visitors, but residents do travel and return home having been exposed. Best to err on the side of caution.
- Deb Moore, 183 Mill Street, Golf Course Committee member and nurse (for 50 years) supported a mask mandate for indoor settings. She wanted to include all business and public buildings to give a simple standardized message.
- Mike Cassidy didn't see the urgent need for a mask mandate. He wanted to consider what would be the criteria for rescinding a mandate. In addition the Board should allow a time period after the vote before the mandate would be effective to allow people prepare signage for compliance.
- Karla Alfred, 315 High Street and Library Trustee has 2 children under 12 years old who can't be vaccinated yet. She wants a mask mandate to protect her unvaccinated children. Her husband had sent a letter to the Board also supporting a mask mandate.
- At the end of the community input session, the Board thanked everyone for their participation and input.
- Mike talked about the Schools universal mask mandate and said they would be revisiting the policy on October 1st.
- The Board discussed the various mask mandates in surrounding towns, and found Wellesley's policy to be most appropriate for our Town.
- They Board discussed how to handle mask policies for private businesses, but decided at this time to simply issue a strong advisory for all public spaces.
- How to handle businesses operating in municipal buildings was discussed.
- The mask policy for restaurants was discussed.
- The wording and implementation of a municipal building mask mandate was discussed.

Jay made a motion to approve an indoor mask mandate for Town employees while interfacing with the public indoors, for all public entering Town buildings and for unvaccinated Town employees at all times while indoors. It goes into effect September 7, 2021. They are also issuing a Town wide “strong advisory” for anyone indoors in a public setting over age of 5 to wear a mask. This policy will be revisited October 1, 2021. Thomas seconded. Roll Call: Thomas Ellis-Aye, Josh Mann-Aye, Jay Leary-Aye

- Mike Cassidy said he would handle the posting of the mask mandate, getting Thomas to sign it for the Board.

Mosquitoes: No significant change in the mosquito testing: there are no cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis in tested mosquitoes, and 66 positive mosquitoes tested for West Nile Virus.

Local Upgrade Approvals – none presented for the Board at this meeting.

Beach Water Testing: Stoddard Park water test results passed and remains open for swimming.

Pleasure Point remains closed as its test result was an exceedance. After Labor Day the beaches are no longer tested.

Covanta Trash Complaint: Andy Bell wrote to the Board regarding trash and odor at Covanta. The Board will have Tom Stanwood, Covanta Manager at the next meeting September 14th to address the situation.

Food Regulation Draft and Fee Schedule will have a public hearing at the September 28th meeting.

Board Comment: Josh will not be at the September 14th meeting, but Thomas and Jay will be able to attend.

Thomas made a motion at 8:48 PM to adjourn the BoH meeting. Jay seconded. Passed.

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

Respectfully:

Ann Adams, Health Department Clerk

Approval Date: 9-14-21