

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2021

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

Scott Moles, *Health Director and Agent*
Ann Adams, *Health Department Clerk*
Lisa Deering, *Health Department Clerk*

Brian Moran, Covanta Compliance Officer for Holliston

Absent: Josh Mann (*ViceChair*)

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, Jay Leary-present

Public Comment: None

Minutes: Thomas made a motion to approve the minutes from August 31, 2021. Jay seconded.

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

Bills: The following bills were discussed:

Salmon VNA- COVID-19 **\$5,209.25**

Thomas made a motion to approve the Salmon bill. Jay seconded.

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

Stericycle – Sharps Disposal Program **\$175.00**

Thomas made a motion to approve the Stericycle bill. Jay seconded.

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

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding request: The Board discussed ARPA and funding COVID-19 related expenses for the remainder of FY22.

Thomas made a motion to request \$35,000 from ARPA to cover the COVID-19 expenses for the remainder of FY22. Jay seconded.

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

Mosquitoes: There were 2 new human cases of West Nile Virus in MA, but none adjacent to Holliston, so Holliston remains low risk. There are no cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis in tested mosquitoes. The Board continues to recommend taking precautions to reduce the risk of mosquito exposure.

Covanta Transfer Station Compliance:

Present: Tom Stanwood, Covanta Transfer Station Regional Manager, over several stations

Dan Peters, Covanta Environmental Engineer

David Stevens, Covanta Holliston Site Supervisor –been there one month replacing Doug Cote

- The Board requested Covanta attend this meeting because of several complaints from residents regarding trash and odor.
- The residents who had complained had been invited to this meeting but didn't attend.

- Tom Stanwood discussed the Transfer Station door repairs and difficulty in getting the replacement parts. All the parts have been received and the doors should be functional next week. They will keep Scott, Brian Moran and Chief Cassidy updated on their progress.
- Jay asked if electrical permits were required for the work they are doing. Tom said he will talk with their electrician.
- The odor reduction system was discussed. David Stevens said the odor reduction system is in operation all day long, starting ½ hour before work begins until ½ hour after stopping work. In addition, they have odor pellets on hand to help reduce the odor.
- Brian Moran, Covanta Compliance Officer asked about the deodorizers on the top of the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) building and what happened to the ground unit they used to have. Tom said they would take a look at the ground unit and see if that might help the situation.
- Tom invited anyone, including residents to take a tour of the Covanta facility. He welcomes any feedback. They are committed to being a good neighbor.
- Brian mentioned that there is damage to the monitor well box's aluminum cap along the Rail Trail. Dan Peters said he will investigate and get it repaired.
- Scott asked Covanta to speak to the complaint of too much material on the tipping floor, 1,500 tons being maximum allowable. Dan said the tipping floor is rarely close to that maximum. The daily averages are: 350 tons of MSW and 150 tons of Construction & Demolition (C&D) waste. Their maximum has been 700 tons.
- Saturday work at the Covanta site was discussed. Saturday work must be approved by Scott prior to the day. Covanta emails Scott, Chief Cassidy and the Police if they will be working on Saturday. Scott asked if that email could be sent prior to noon, since the Health Department closes at noon on Friday. Work on Saturday can only be taking material out, no incoming deliveries.
- David Stevens indicated frustration that for 15 years Covanta had no complaints and now there are several. He discussed the measures they have taken to step up the street trash management.
 - They have a professional street sweeping truck with 2 operators that patrol daily and log their results. There is a bucket on the back of the truck if they find big objects.
 - Mostly it is hub caps and beer bottles, except for Tuesday as that is the resident's trash removal day. Sometimes the residents overfill their trash containers and it ends up in the street. It would be helpful if the Scott would reach out to the Select Board and have them enlist the cooperation from the waste removal company, E.L. Harvey and the Town residents to be diligent about their trash.
 - Generally the professional trash haulers have well secured loads. It is the "mom & pop" customers who show up with unsecured loads for a one time drop off that pose the most problems with items falling onto the road.
 - David has tried to find the best time to have the street sweeper patrol Washington Street, but it is a busy road. They also patrol the side streets, but people park their cars on the streets.
- Brian asked Dan if he had gotten the second semiannual storm water sample. Dan said he had and it was within compliance. Dan will forward that to Brian soon.
- The Board thanked the Covanta representatives for meeting with them, and for all their efforts to keep out Town safe and clean.
- Covanta thanked the Board for the opportunity to share ideas and continue to be the best they can be.

COVID-19 update:

- Total cumulative COVID-19 cases in Town=894, active cases 8
- Holliston has lowered to a green risk level by the State's COVID-19 designation. They discussed what it will take to further reduce to the gray level.
- Scott said the surrounding towns have experienced a similar reduction in cases.
- The Schools are discussing mandatory staff COVID-19 vaccination.
- Scott said there are ample options for getting COVID-19 vaccines including local pharmacies and Ashland's State run clinics.

- Thomas asked if there is opportunity for COVID-19 vaccination at Celebrate Holliston this Saturday. Lisa said the Holliston CVS store is on Central Street, where Celebrate Holliston is being held this year. CVS has COVID-19 vaccines should anyone want to get it.
- Jay spoke about the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine being approved for 5 year olds and up, and COVID-19 booster shots for immunocompromised individuals.
- Scott said the Northborough/Westboro regional clinic people are talking about doing a booster clinic. He will keep the Board posted.
- The Board is expecting more cases as school is now in session, and people having traveled for Labor Day.
- The Accolade letter for our Salmon VNA lead nurse Ann Labonte was discussed. We are very fortunate to have Ann on our team.

Local Upgrade Approvals – none presented for the Board at this meeting. 30 Central Street will require a hearing in October, but the engineers must first notify the abutters.

Mission Springs Dogs:

- The Health Department received several complaints regarding dogs peeing inside the building and at the entrance of Mission Springs.
- Mission Springs has a dog potty area designated, but some of the owners are not diligent at following the rules.
- The Health Department has been working with the Mission Springs manager, Joanne Suchanek to help remedy the situation.
- Scott sent a letter to residents informing them of the Sanitary Code requirements and fines for non-compliance.
- Joanne provided the Town Clerk with the names of the resident dogs and they are pursuing ensuring all the dogs are licensed and up to date on rabies vaccination.
- Several residents have called the Health Department thanking us for helping remedy the dog situation.

Tobacco Compliance: On Saturday Olivia Dufour, Tobacco Program Manager, ran a compliance check for the tobacco retailers in Town. Two retailers sold tobacco to a minor, incurring a violation. Olivia notified the stores on Saturday of the violations so they could confirm that on their cameras. Monday Olivia and Scott signed violation letters to the 2 stores fining them \$1,000 each. The Board discussed the tobacco rules and requested that Olivia join an October meeting as Jay has never met her.

Vaping at the High School: Thomas indicated concern about the amount of vaping at Holliston High School. He asked Scott to contact the Schools and see what they are doing about it, and how the Board of Health can help reduce vaping. Olivia Dufour might also be a resource.

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

Board Comment: Jay may have a conflict with the September 28th meeting but he will let us know. Thomas said he is available. Josh had previously said he was available, so we would have quorum. Len Izzo, Food Inspector for Holliston will be at that meeting.

Thomas made a motion at 8:09 PM to adjourn the BoH meeting. Jay seconded.

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

Respectfully:
Ann Adams, Health Department Clerk

Approval Date: