

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

September 28, 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*
Lisa Deering, *Health Department Clerk*

Fire Chief Mike Cassidy, *Holliston Emergency Manager*
Len Izzo, *Holliston Food Inspector (arrived at 7:15)*

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 September 14, 2021. Jay seconded.
Roll Call: Thomas Ellis-Aye, Josh Mann- Aye, Jay Leary-Aye. Passed.

Bills: The following bills were discussed:

Stantec – Covanta Compliance Officer – Brian Moran **\$276.00**

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

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

Local Upgrade Approvals – none presented for the Board at this meeting. 32-34 Central Street hearing is set for October 12. The engineer is notifying the abutters.

Mosquitoes: In spite of the wet weather, Holliston remains low risk category for Eastern Equine Encephalitis as there are no cases in tested mosquitoes. The Board continues to recommend taking precautions to reduce the risk of mosquito exposure.

COVID-19 update:

- Total cumulative COVID-19 cases in Town=913, active cases 20
- Holliston is yellow risk level by the State's COVID-19 designation.
- Scott said the surrounding towns are experienced cases.
- The Schools have experienced some break through cases of COVID-19 and are extending their mask mandate past Oct 1st, and it will be revisited November 1, 2021.
- Cynthia Listewnik, Chair Holliston School Committee, discussed how they are exploring the staff vaccination rate and how they hope to handle cold and flu season.
- COVID-19 discussions will continue after the Public Hearing scheduled to start at 7:15 PM.

Public Hearing: Food Regulations, Retail Residential Kitchen permit fee, Accessory Building permit fee

- The accessory building release permit fee was explained and discussed. The basic concept was to clarify when it was necessary to take a fee for a review as outlined on the back of Form A.

Thomas made a motion to approve the Accessory Building fee schedule as outlined on the back of Form A. Josh seconded. Roll Call: Thomas Ellis-Aye, Josh Mann- Aye, Jay Leary-Aye. Passed.

- Len Izzo, Holliston Food Inspector discussed the draft food regulations that are proposed for adoption.
- The Board asked questions regarding mobile food trucks and various food vendors.
- Deb Moore, Anthony's on the Green, asked about food inspections and ServSafe employees.
- Len explained how food inspections are handled.
- The annual food permit fees were discussed, why some are higher than other is dependent on the amount of work and inspections are required by the different type of permits.

Jay made a motion to adopt the draft Food Regulations as outlined, effective November 1, 2021. Josh seconded. Roll Call: Thomas Ellis-Aye, Josh Mann- Aye, Jay Leary-Aye. Passed.

- Most of the residents attending the meeting were interested in Retail Residential Kitchens (RRK).
- Len explained how RRK's are handled in Wellesley and how cottage food operations would impact an onsite septic system (flour clogs leach fields) that are the norm in Holliston.
- Josh said as long as the applicants for RRK's are notified of the risks to their septic, the choice is theirs.
- Specific questions about roasting coffee as an RRK were requested to be handled directly with Len.
- Residents were happy that RRK's will be allowed and permitted in Town now.
- In previous years it was Zoning By-laws that prohibited RRK's. The new Building Commissioner interprets the current By-laws to allow cottage kitchen operations.
- The fee for an RRK permit was discussed and set at \$100 annually.

Jay made a motion to set the Food Permit annual fee as \$100. Thomas seconded. Roll Call: Thomas Ellis-Aye, Josh Mann- Aye, Jay Leary-Aye. Passed.

- The Board thanked everyone for attending this public hearing and for their input.
- Jay mentioned that there would be a webinar on the Open Meeting Law tomorrow given by the Town Counsel, Jay Tallerman and that everyone was welcome to attend.

COVID-19 update- continued:

- The Board discussed extending the mask mandate to November 1st in municipal building, similar to the Schools.
- They asked Chief Cassidy his thoughts on the mask mandate. Chief Cassidy asked what metric will the Board use to rescind the order. Because the numbers are so low, he continues to be not in favor of the mask mandate.
- The current order is just for municipal buildings. It is not necessarily the employees (who have a high vaccination rate) but it is the visitors who have unknown vaccination rates and exposure.
- The Board asked about the Town Meeting COVID-19 protocols. Chief Cassidy said masks are required in any School building, but other than that, the distancing is up to the individuals.
- The Board felt that continuing the municipal building mask mandate was important since we are in a county of substantial COVID-19 transmission according to the CDC.
- Josh felt that the Town has good vaccination rates, but the region and the State do not. He would like to follow the lead of the Schools regarding extending the mask mandate.

Jay made a motion to extend the mask mandate for municipal building until November 1.

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

Tobacco Compliance: Olivia Dufour, Tobacco Compliance Program Manager & Scott sent violation letters to two tobacco retailers who sold to a minor, incurring a \$1,000 fine. The fine is sent by the State. Second violations within 36 months will incur a \$2,000 fine and a suspension of sales for up to 7 days. Olivia is available to the retailers for staff training and education. She has also offered help with vaping cessation. We will forward that information to the Schools.

Flu and COVID-19 Clinics:

- Cynthia Listewnik asked if the Health Department would be running flu or COVID-19 clinics. Previous to 2020, the Health Department would give the school nurses seasonal flu doses to administer to their staff at their convenience over a several week period (not an individual clinic).
- In 2020 the School nurses contracted with a pharmacy to have a flu clinic at the Schools independent of the Health Department.
- Pharmacies will come on-site to have clinics, but the site must guarantee a minimum number of doses. The Senior Center explored that option but decided it was better to have their clients go to their pharmacies or doctors.
- It was explained that in the past the Health Department had run flu clinics in Town, but now with pharmacists giving vaccinations it is readily available, and getting a large group together was prohibitive.
- Also the State is now requiring submission of vaccine administration, which the pharmacies and medical facilities have done electronically / automatically with software, that is not the primary focus of the Health Department.
- Flu vaccine purchasing has become stricter with return options falling from 25% to 5%. In March the Health Department would need to estimate the required doses within 5% for the fall clinic
- Historically nurses would volunteer for the flu clinic, but nurses are not available for volunteer activities since COVID-19.
- The Regional Clinic is exploring starting back up to give booster shots. Scott will keep us posted.
- Ashland's full-time COVID-19 coordinator, Ed Burman, continues to encourage Holliston residents to his COVID-19 clinic. He is working with the State, and uses the Mass Bay facility across from Shaw's. Holliston and the other surrounding towns don't have a full time COVID-19 coordinator like Ed. Chief Cassidy and Scott have other job responsibilities.
- Josh still wants to explore Town run flu and COVID-19 clinics.
- Jay asked the Chief about adequate doses of COVID-19 for boosters and when the 5 to 11 year olds become eligible. The chief said he doesn't anticipate a problem as they have been stocking up for this occurrence.
- Thomas asked Cynthia if she could get the Board the number of School staff that would want a vaccination at a clinic before the next BoH meeting on October 12. She said she would do that.

Board Comment: none

Thomas made a motion at 8:49 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: 10-12-21