

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

November 23, 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*

Stacey Raffi, *Holliston School Committee Representative*

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

Holliston Public Schools COVID-19:

- Stacey Raffi, said she is attending our BoH meeting as a Holliston School Committee representative. The School Committee appreciates the Board's input regarding health issues. The Board said they appreciate the School Committee's team attitude and collaboration.
- Stacey asked the Board about their input on the BU School of Public Health's recommendations for unmasking in schools.
- Scott will get a copy of the BU recommendations and send to the Board. The Board said they will investigate these recommendations and get their feedback to Stacey.
- Stacy said that the Medway schools are using this BU criteria, but have not met the criteria.
- Stacey gave the school vaccination rates: staff = 97%, students = 88%
- School COVID-19 cases: Middle School=7, High School = 6
- MIAA has said indoor athletes must be masked as of 11-30-21
- DESE said schools will be masked when indoors until 1-15-21
- Hopkinton High School did an unmasked trial that ends tomorrow, however 40% of the students and staff remained masked throughout. Hopkinton schools have a higher vaccination rate than Holliston.
- Ashland High School is planning to unmask 12-13-21.
- The Board will review their Holliston mask mandate for municipal buildings at their next meeting 12-7-21.

COVID-19 update:

- Total cumulative COVID-19 cases in Town=1017, active cases 22
- Holliston remains at yellow risk level by the State's COVID-19 designation.
- The positivity rate has gone up in Holliston, but is still below the State.
- Lisa will run the MAVEN COVID-19 case numbers tomorrow and get them to the Board.

Town Clinics:

- Town of Holliston's seasonal flu clinic on Saturday, November 20th vaccinated 118 people. Thanks to the Board volunteers, workers and MetroWest Pharmacy for all their efforts.
- Senior Center is partnering with MetroWest Pharmacy and having a COVID-19 booster clinic December 8th. Currently there are 76 persons registered. Call the Senior Center to pre-register.
- Scott is working with Fallon to administer 300 doses of COVID-19 in the Holliston Schools to 5 to 11 year olds. It is targeted for Friday, 12-3-21. The Board discussed the timing and location of this clinic. Scott said he will investigate their recommendations and get back to them.

49 Central Street – housing issue:

- Scott inspected 49 Central Street at the request of the tenant. He sent the landlord, Vasu Brown the letter requiring a response by 12-7-21, and remediation within 30 days.
- The landlord has told the tenant that she is selling the property, but has not given the tenant an eviction notice.
- In October there had been water damage requiring building permits and inspections. Then there was a problem with no heat due to an unpaid utility bills for the lower unit. In 2015 the septic was upgraded only after enforcement.
- Scott will keep the Board updated.

667 Highland Street was going to require a Local Upgrade Approval (LUA), but the engineer Paul Saulnier, Civilized Solutions moved the pump chamber eliminating the need for an LUA. It is a house with 3 apartments which use a single septic system that has an expanded leach area.

Health Department Staff: Lisa Deering is retiring December 1st. Kristin Abraham has accepted the position and will start November 29th. The Board expressed their appreciation for all of Lisa's hard work and contributions. She will be sorely missed. Lisa thanked the Board and said she enjoyed working with them.

Town Hall upgrades - James Keast, Facilities Director is managing these projects:

- Town Hall Septic system upgrade has begun and will be completed before Christmas, weather permitting.
- New storm windows installation is almost completed.
- New key locks for Town Hall are being wired and folks will need to get new keys-entry cards should they want them. Scott will keep the Board posted.

Noise Complaint at 175 Lowland St:

- Herb Brockert, of Tree Specialists are doing permitted stump grinding.
- They do this grinding operation about 4 days per year.
- Usually they notify their neighbors. Some of the neighbors didn't get notified and complained.
- Scott has taken some noise reading out there.
- This is an industrial park and the operation is permitted, and happening during a permitted time.
- They notified the Building Inspector and the Fire Chief about the grinding. Next time they will be sure to notify Scott also.

Composting concern at Arcadian Farms, 258 Norfolk Street has recently brought in 4 to 6 tractor trailers of compost. This is a significant increase over the past. There is concern that they are doing a composting operation rather than exclusively agricultural use. There could be odor and fire hazards if the proper handling is not taken. Scott has enlisted the help of State Agricultural Commission and the DEP in this matter.

Marshall Street Solar Farms:

- Marshall & Prentice Street: Scott updated the Board on the large solar farm being installed at the corner of Marshall and Prentice Streets on what was known as the Bird property. The history of the Bird property pollution was discussed. The tires, trash, and contaminated soils are being trucked off site. Wesson and Sampson are on site doing soil testing as needed. The Health Director, Scott is notified of the clean-up. The permitting for the site was from the State and the Planning Board.
- Marshall Street Landfill: This significantly smaller solar farm on the Marshall Street landfill may be permitted by the DEP by mid-January. The landfill testing will continue throughout construction and operation.

Bills: The following bill was discussed:

Salmon VNA- COVID-19 cases, paid by CARES **\$5,041.75**

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

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

Minutes: Thomas made a motion to approve the minutes from November 9, 2021. Josh seconded.

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

Next BoH Meeting is December 7, 2021.

Board Comment: The Board praised the Health Department in their efforts regarding flu and COVID-19 clinics. Scott thanked the Board for being at the flu clinic on 11-20-21.

Thomas made a motion at 7:53 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: 12-7-21