

# Board of Health Meeting Minutes

## May 17, 2022

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

Scott Moles, *Health Director and Agent*  
Kristin Abraham, *Health Department Clerk*  
Ann Adams, *Health Department Clerk*  
Cynthia Listewnik, *Holliston School Committee Chair*

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

### COVID-19 update:

- There are 53 active cases of COVID-19 in Town bringing the cumulative total to 2471.
- Holliston is still red (high) risk level by the State's COVID-19 designation.
- Scott said the surrounding towns are similar in the number of cases to Holliston.
- The cases are not of the severity to overwhelm the hospitals as before.
- Department of Public Health (DPH) has not changed their mask recommendations.
- The Massachusetts Health Officers Association (MHOA) grant has been used to back-fund some of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) expenditures as the spending guidelines differ.
- DPH is allocating COVID-19 kits for summer camp groups so they can test their participants.

### Holliston Public Schools COVID-19 update:

- Cynthia Listewnik, Holliston School Committee Chair updated the Board on COVID-19 at the Holliston Public Schools.
- The COVID-19 cases are fairly evenly spread across the schools. The Placentino (lower elementary) COVID-19 case numbers are slightly higher than Miller (upper elementary).
- The Schools have suggested that kids return to wearing masks, but have not mandated it.
- High School prom is Friday and they are hoping it will not be a COVID-19 spreader event. The students are being bused to Providence for prom.
- Cynthia asked if the COVID-19 vaccination for 5 year olds and younger has been approved yet, and Scott said no.
- Scott said that most of the cases in Town are break-thru in vaccinated individuals.
- Thomas asked if the BoH should make recommendations that residents should get their 4<sup>th</sup> shot if break-thru cases are prevalent.
- Josh asked if the BoH should initiate another COVID-19 vaccination clinic to give boosters to teachers.
- Jay asked if Chief Cassidy, Emergency Management Director, could give numbers regarding residents that have received 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> COVID-19 shots.
- Cynthia said she believed having 3 COVID-19 vaccination constituted fully vaccinated. Scott confirmed.
- Cynthia said that asking teachers to get 4<sup>th</sup> vaccinations was a shift of criteria.

- Jay said that the 4<sup>th</sup> COVID-19 vaccination is not being as aggressively promoted since there is a successful medication (Paxlovid) for people who contract COVID-19. People are choosing not to get the 4<sup>th</sup> vaccine; to wait and see if it is rolled into the flu vaccine.
- With the COVID-19 strains mutation, there are lots of changes and the situation keeps evolving.
- Thomas suggested that COVID-19 is now endemic and we will need to always deal with it.

**Mosquitos:** Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project (CMMCP) will be treating the wetlands / ponds with larvacide for mosquitoes to stem Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). The helicopters will be flying over next week. The treatment area map is on the Town website. Scott said it will be 20 days before they have mosquitoes to test for EEE or West Nile virus.

**Upcoming events:**

- Touch-a-Truck: May 21
- Town Elections: May 24
- Beach testing starts June 6 at Pleasure Point and Stoddard Park
- Carnival: July 13 to 16
- Summer Camp information is coming in
- End of School: June 24
- High School Seniors' last day: May 25

**Table Top Pizza** will have a change of owner as the pizza chef, who has worked there for years, is buying it.

**Bills:** The Board discussed the Salmon VNA bill for contagious diseases.

**Thomas made a motion to approve the Salmon bill for \$4,053.50.**

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

**Minutes:** Thomas made a motion to approve the BoH meeting minutes from May 3, 2022.

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

**Board Comment:** Scott, Jay and Josh expressed their gratitude to Thomas for his service on the BoH as this is his last meeting. Thomas thanked the BoH, Scott, Health Department, School Committee representatives and Technology Zoom coordinators, saying it was a pleasure working with them all.

**Next BoH Meeting** is June 7, 2022

**Thomas made a motion to adjourn the BoH meeting at 7:30 PM. Jay seconded.**

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

Respectfully:

Ann Adams, Health Department Clerk

Approval Date: 6-7-22