



Town of Boxford

Meeting Minutes of the Board of Health

January 20, 2021

NO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE - REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY

6:30PM

Virtual Participation Only

**This meeting will be audio and video recorded
To View: FIOS #39; Comcast #22; BCATv website
For Directions to Participate via Zoom Click Here**

ZOOM Meeting ID: 968 3803 8569

Passcode: 829548

Present: Richard Taylor, Richard Fahrner, Alex Constan, Heather Forand, Hans Jeppesen, Kendell Longo, Lance Cluster, Susan Inman, Carol Hubbard, Caroline Sommer, Carrie Yespy, Chris Wakeman, Elizabeth Palmer, Mike McKenzie, Pam Blaquiere

Meeting opened at 6:30 PM by D. Taylor

Roll call indicated that the following members of the Board of Health were present remotely: **D. Taylor, R. Fahrner, A. Constan, H. Forand, H. Jeppesen**

Minutes

Minutes were reviewed from the December 08, 2020 meeting. A **motion** was made by **H. Jeppesen** to accept the minutes, **seconded** by **R. Taylor**. Approved unanimously by a roll call vote.

Bills

D. Taylor reviewed with the Board the current bills payable totaling \$124,585.67. A **motion** was made by **H. Jeppesen** to accept the total bills of \$124,585.67, **seconded** by **A. Constan**. **Approved** unanimously with a roll call vote.

Director's Report

K. Longo shared with the Board of an announcement not yet shared with the State that there will be a vaccination mega site at The Double Tree Hilton located in both Middleton and Danvers which will be the Essex County mega site. They will be following the DPH phase schedule and will open February 01, 2021 9:00am-5:00pm 7 days per week with a through put for 3,500-5,000 people per day. **D. Taylor** stated to viewers that of present date, vaccinations are currently for Phase 1 only. **H. Jeppesen** commented that the through put number seemed high considering most Covid-19 facing people have either been vaccinated or offered the vaccine. **A. Constan** believed that the through put meant peak numbers that could be handled. **H. Jeppesen** mentioned that an NP that lives in Boxford and some of his staff offered to help with vaccinations. **K. Longo** mentioned a link that will be announced for staffing for all of Phase 3 which may pivot back to the Topsfield Fair Grounds. **K. Longo** said that they will continue to work on local, regional more intimate vaccination clinics for our seniors and special populations. **D. Taylor** has been in contact with Beverly Salate from the VNA and Pam Blaquiere from the COA and Boxford has been approved to receive vaccines and there are freezers available at the VNA. If the State decides to have mass vaccination locations, we will have lists ready.

K. Longo and **A. Constan** met with Waste Management. They have pricing for a town mailing which they agreed to. The Board discussed the Flyer to be sent town wide.

A **motion** was made by **A. Constan** to move forward with the change of the Boxford holiday trash collection schedule to revise the holidays originally proposed in the contract to the new revision proposed by Waste Management and to assemble a flyer which Waste management will pay for including a description of two 35 gallon bins for recycling allowed each week per household, **seconded** by **R. Fahrner**. **Approved** unanimously with a roll call vote.

PFAS Meeting Discussion

The Board discussed the free analysis offered to the public and gave their opinions. **R. Fahrner** commented that he would like more clarification from them. **A. Constan** commented that there would be no forced option to remediate findings on a private well based on results. **D. Taylor** agreed with **R. Fahrner** that the Board needs to question what is being offered. **D. Taylor** stated he will collate some questions to share with the Board to get more information from the DEP. **A. Constan** said he felt they are just trying to get an overall baseline for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as to average PFAS concentrations in selected communities Boxford included. **D. Taylor** stated that he will compose a paragraph, share with Board members to have posted on the town site and secondly have questions for them on their protocols.

Town Meeting Article

Tabled for a future date.

COVID Updates and Actions

D. Taylor discussed the COVID cases with December hitting 145 monthly cases putting the Town in a significant surge. As of the 2 weeks in January there were 75 which may be going up but hopefully starting to level. **H. Jeppesen** spoke about the company Biobot that analyzes wastewater for COVID detection and how it has been coinciding with the COVID numbers. **D. Taylor** discussed with the Board the school cases in Town and how children are being quarantined. **D. Taylor** talked about pool testing and testing kits. **H.**

Forand commented on the pool testing. **D. Taylor** said he would stay in contact with the Superintendents to learn how they are going to institute it and how the schools are to be set up.

D. Taylor read aloud the recommendation to the schools from the Board on distancing and asked the Board for comments. **H. Jeppesen** commented on the importance of children's mental well-being and to get them back to school as soon as possible but with Boxford in the red right now to keep things as they are. **D. Taylor** stated if the Board is still in agreement with their previous recommendation on school distancing, they should make a motion. **R. Fahrner** commented that the CDC data is good, however a lot of other data is not great and seems to be politically driven and not scientifically driven. A **motion** was made by **R. Fahrner** that the Board of Health renew its guidance to the Board of Education within the Tri-Town district to maintain as best as possible 6 feet distancing from each other for the children and at a minimum 3 feet distancing but a strong preference toward 6 feet when feasible, **seconded** by **A. Constan**. Opened for comments Chris Wakeman commented on the subject. **Approved** unanimously with a roll call vote.

Adjourn 8:00pm

With no further business, on a **motion** made by **R. Fahrner**, **seconded** by **A. Constan**, the Board of Health voted **unanimously** with a roll call vote to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Kwiatek
Minutes Secretary