



TOWN OF LANCASTER – BOARD OF HEALTH

Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2021

Members in attendance: John Farnsworth, Katherine Holden, and Jeff Paster

Also in attendance: William Brookings, Health Agent and Debra Dennis, BOH Administrator

Chairman Farnsworth called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

Meeting Material

- October 14, 2021, Agenda
- Minutes February 10, 2021

Permits

- 2029 Lunenburg Road-Bill Brooking said this was issued in September 2018 and was given three years until September 2021. The Board received a request for a year extension. **Katherine Holden made a motion to approve a one-year extension. Jeff Paster seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Katherine Holden yes, Jeff Paster yes, and John Farnsworth yes.**

Title 5 Inspection Reports

- 4 Magnolia Ave-pass
- 569 South Meadow Road-pass
- 850 Langen Road-failure
- 89 Cleverly Cove Road-pass

Discussion

- Select Board policy mandatory Covid-19 vaccination of town employees-Jeff Paster said at a previous Select Board meeting, Select Board member Alix Turner raised the issue of mandatory covid vaccine for town employees. The Board of Health attended the September 20th Select Board meeting and went on record supporting the Select Boards position. He said he worked with Sandi the Interim Human Resource Director and drafted a policy. At the October 4th Select Board meeting the Board voted not in support of the policy.

Alix Turner said at the previous meeting the Select Board voted in principle to a policy with the details summarized by the Interim Human Resource Director with he input by the Board of Health. On October 4th she said the Select Board Chair said he is not comfortable.

Chair Farnsworth said they are town employees not employees of the Board of Health. The policy should come from the Select Board. He said he is in favor of vaccinations. Sandi Charlton said the Board of Health should not be involved with the draft of employment policies. Jeff Paster said no further action is needed by the Board of Health.

- Recap & Response to Monday, 4-Oct-2021 Select Board Meeting
- **COVID Rapid Test Kits**-Chair Farnsworth said they should have test kits readily available. Jeff Paster said there are two types. The rapid antigen test (self administered) which can have false positives and negatives. The other is a PCR testing which is more accurate but takes more time. He said he supports the Board getting but if a rapid test comes back positive, they should follow up with a PCR test.
- **Revisiting Masking, Face Covering, Town Wide Mandate**-Katherine Holden said she is in support of keeping the mandate in force which Chair Farnsworth agreed. Jeff Paster said he has a draft document with criteria for rescinding the Covid 19 mask mandate. He read it into the record. He suggested using any of the three conditions to rescind the mask mandate when appropriate.

Chair Farnsworth said the mask protects us and everyone else.

Alix Turner said they are in full compliance with the mask mandate. She discussed serving meals at the Community Center. She discussed having masks being worn unless eating. She said there will be four people to a five-foot table.

Jeff Paster said there is nothing in the state guidelines or Lancaster mandate that specifies eating meals. He said there is no scientific basis, but a large number of people indoors together increases the spread of the virus.

Chair Farnsworth said he wants to make sure that seniors are well taken care of.

- **Kalon Farm status- citation penalty assessed December 2020**-Jeff Paster said the Board issued a citation and sent it by certified mail which the Board received no response to at that time. He said since there is still a cease and desist by the Fire Department and Kalon Farm has paid the fine. **Jeff Paster made a motion the Board of Health rescind the prior decision of the cease-and-desist order due to the fine being paid and the violations citing are no longer relevant. Katherine Holden seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Katherine Holden yes, Jeff Paster yes, and John Farnsworth yes.**
- **Area Ponds, Algae, DEP Contacts**-Chair Farnsworth said he received a number of calls concerning this. He said if you contact the Board, they will send the information about testing and in general what to do.

- **81 Whitcomb Road**-Chair Farnsworth said he did a site visit with Bill Brookings and Chief Hanson on Wednesday morning. He said he thinks she is ready to get the power back on. He said the structure is not move in at this time. They made a lot of progress. He said he thinks someone needs to look at the furnace and the wiring before the power gets back on. The homeowner asked for an extension and to revisit this at the next meeting. **Jeff Paster made a motion to approve an extension to extend it to December 1st for the first letter and December 14th for the second letter. Katherine Holden seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Katherine Holden, Jeff Paster yes, and John Farnsworth yes.**
- **Jones Crossing- Presby bed sizing**-Bill Brookings said there is no new information but will meet with Mark O'Hagen to discuss.
- **201 Hill Top Road**-Bill Brookings said there is nothing new at this time.
- **679 George Hill Road**-Present was Frank McFarland and Rob Ancil. Rob Ancil discussed with the Board the financial assurances that the Board of Health is requiring. Chair Farnsworth proposed to take the document submitted under advisement and discuss it at the next meeting. Bill Brookings said this does not address the Title 5 variances. Robert Ancil asked for a sample form. Bill Brookings said he will get one to him. Chair Farnsworth said he would contact the Sewer District for an update.

Katherine Holden left the meeting at 10am.

- **2056 North Main Street-cistern**-Bill Brookings said they have submitted a shallow well permit.
- **Halloween on the Green and 4H activities**-Jeff Paster said there are no restrictions by the state or the Board of Health to prevent this activity. Chair Farnsworth said the Board should give some safety protocols.
- **Vax Clinics, follow-up and critique**-Jeff Paster said the Covid Coordinator did a fantastic job setting up the clinic. There was around one hundred people who came. There were 145 vaccinations given.
- DEP Air Quality Study Devices
- Region-2 and other Supplies & Storage
 - Supplies Requested, Supplies Received
- Mosquitos, West-Nile, EEE, Invasives and CMMCP-Chair Farnsworth said as of October 7th there have been eight cases of West Nile Virus in the state. Lancaster is not at high risk.
- Report from Members & Agents, Complaints, Cease & Desists-Jeff Paster said he received complaints from four different parents/grandparents concerning South Lancaster Academy violating the mask mandate. He said he did a site visit o October 13th and observed a teacher not wearing face covering. He informed the principal and wrote a report.

- Next meeting date, -The next meeting is October 28th at 9:30am.

Minutes

- February 10, 2021-**Jeff Paster made a motion to approve, and John Farnsworth seconded. Roll Call Vote: Jeff Paster yes, and John Farnsworth yes.**
- February 18, 2021-This was tabled.

Adjourn

Jeff Paster made a motion to adjourn. John Farnsworth seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Jeff Paster yes, and John Farnsworth yes.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40am.

Respectfully submitted

Debra Dennis
Board of Health Administrator