

TOWN OF LANCASTER – BOARD OF HEALTH

Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2022

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

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

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

Jeff Paster explained the zoom process

Permits

- **6 Oetman Way-permit transfer**-William Brookings said it is a simple permit transfer since the lot was sold. The process is to get the new owners name on the permit.

Title-5 Inspection Reports

- **306 Fort Pond Road**-William Brookings said this was a pass.
- **110 Chase Hill Road**-William Brookings said this was a failure and a letter will go out stating upgrade needs to be done in two years.
- **80 Fitch Road**-William Brookings said this was a pass.
- **30 South Meadow Road**
- **2517 North Main Street**-William Brookings said the system was covered in some sort of ground cover and the roots were infiltrating the components. A potential dry well needs to be located and inspected or it needs to be decommissioned and the sink in the basement needs to be tied into the system.
- **700 Fort Pond Road**-William Brookings said this was a pass.

Discussion

- Revisiting Masking, Face Covering Mandate, updates as available-Chair Paster shared updated data showing Lancaster continuing to be the worst performer in terms of vaccination efficiency compared to area towns 58%. He showed the positive covid rate which is increasing very quickly. He discussed the criteria under which the face covering mandate would be lifted. He proposed to modify the criteria to having not just one of the conditions being met to two of them being met. It would be #3(vaccination rate at greater than 60%) and either #1 or #2 being met. The Board discussed this and were in favor of it. **John Farnsworth made a motion to modify the approved October 28th health mandate from any one of the three to any two of the three for rescinding the mask mandate. Katherine Holden seconded the motion. Chair Paster made a motion to amend the previous motion to state modify the criteria to lift the face covering mandate and change the criteria from any one of the three to the achievement of 60% vaccination rate and one of the other two criteria. John Farnsworth seconded the amended motion. No discussion. Roll Call Vote: John Farnsworth yes, Katherine Holden yes, and Jeff Paster yes.**

- **Vax Clinics, follow-up, and discussion**-Chair Paster said they have continued to work diligently with Nashoba and also create our own clinics. There are some clinics coming up in January and February for adult and children vaccination.
- **Year 20-29 Age Group**-Chair Paster said they have a plan to use direct mailing postcards which the Covid Coordinator has been involved with a vendor the town uses. He said they are trying to do the most they can to increase the vaccination rate.
- **Clinic Expenses and funding**-
- **BOH Budget Review, present-proposed changes**-Chair Paster talked about the ARPA funding budget. A repository (list) was made by the Board for any town department/board to use to indicate what they would like the Select Board to consider spending ARPA money on. The covid coordinator is funded by this. The Board requested the Select Board approve the expenditure of \$10,000 to buy covid 19 antigen test kits. He said as a Board of Health they feel they have been underfunded financially especially with in the context of the height of the pandemic. Chair Paster discussed increasing certain line items on the Board of Health budget for the upcoming fiscal year. **Katherine Holden made a motion to accept the Chairs proposed changes and John Farnsworth seconded the motion. No discussion. Roll Call Vote: John Farnsworth yes, Katherine Holden yes and Jeff Paster yes.** John Farnsworth said the Board should revisit this at the next meeting and suggested pursuing the Finance Committee before the next meeting.

Chief Hanson mentioned that the Boylston Fire Chief has been getting covid 19 test kits free from the state. He said he will contact them to see how this is done.

- **Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) EAT Request Form**-Chair Paster asked the other Board members to forward any ideas they think should be purchased to him.
- **Proposed February Town Meeting**-Chair Paster said he received several emails from town residents with there comments pertaining to holding it indoors during a surge of the pandemic. The opinion of the Board has been unless there is an urgent need for a meeting it should be done remotely or outdoors. If indoor meeting limit space so a six-foot distance can be maintained, and face covering be worn.
- **679 George Hill Road**-Frank McFarland said he met with the Sewer Commission, and they are unable to issue the permit due to an administrative issue with the DEP. The Sewer Commission confirmed the sewer connection will be a year from whenever they file it. There was a vote to issue the permit in February of 2021 but wasn't ever issued. Bill Brookings recommended sending all the previous letters to be sent to the new owner, so they are aware of what is going on. The Board has yet to receive a response to their letter to the LSDC regarding the issues with the ACO (Administrative Issues) they have with the DEP.
- **Posting of Board of Health meeting videos**-After some discussion, the Board agreed that the meeting videos will now be posted on SLCTV.

Next meeting date-The next meeting of the Board will be January 27, 2022, at 9:30am.

Minutes

Board of Health Meeting Minutes January 13, 2022

- **December 23, 2021**-The minutes were not available currently.
- **January 3, 2022**-John Farnsworth made a motion to approve the minutes of January 3, 2022, minutes and Katherine Farnsworth seconded the motion. No discussion. Roll Call Vote: John Farnsworth yes, Katherine Holden yes, and Jeff Paster yes.

Adjourn

Katherine Holden made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by John Farnsworth. No discussion. Roll Call Vote: John Farnsworth, Katherine Holden yes and Jeff Paster yes.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25AM.

Respectfully submitted

Debra Dennis