

Board Members

Eric Lindstrom, Chair
Jack Mill, Vice Chair
Khalid Abdi, Member
Katherine Tonelli, Member
Leanne Harris, Member
Beth Hallal, Agent
Michelle Cahoon, Secretary



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TOWN OF MEDWAY COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

Date/Time of Meeting: Monday, August 30th, 2021
Location of Meeting: Via ZOOM
Committee Members Present: Eric Lindstrom (C), Jack Mill (VC), Khalid Abdi, Katherine Tonelli, Leanne Yarosh-Harris
Visitors Present: Barry Smith, (DPW)
Town Employees Present: Beth Hallal, Kelly OBrien, Michelle Cahoon
Call to Order: 5:35PM
Minutes Review: August 16th 2021 APPROVED

Agenda Item 1: Fluoride / Water

Mr. Smith shared with the committee members that the town of Medway typically puts Fluoride in the water; however, at the present time, the town cannot purchase this mineral. The town has been directed to use the remaining Fluoride until it runs out. Mr. Smith shared that most towns do not use Fluoride in their water and that the town of Medway is currently discussing the process of eliminating fluoride in the town's water supply. Members asked questions of Barry regarding risks and benefits of fluoride, where the fluoride comes from and if fluoride contributes to pipe problems.

Mr. Mill made a motion for the Board to further study and look at the science and data around banning or continuing to use Fluoride in town water supply. Motion seconded by Mr. Lindstrom. Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Action Item: Ms. Hallal to speak with Ms. Potter in the Town Administrators office to ask if a town vote is required to remove Fluoride from water.

Agenda Item 2: Mask Mandate from Last Week

Discussion was continued from last meeting. It was confirmed with Ms. Potter in the Town Administrators office that the town employees fall **do not fall** under the jurisdiction of the Board of Health, but under the Town Administrators office, and therefore Mr. Lindstrom made the motion to expunge the mask mandate made by Ms. Harris.

This motion was seconded by Mr. Mill. Ms. Harris recused herself from this vote. Ms. Tonelli voted against, as she would like to see the data on town employee's vaccination numbers. Motion passed with a 3-1 vote

Action Item: Ms. Tonelli to get the information about town employee vaccination numbers. Ms. Hallal to speak to the Town Administrators office asking if the Board of Health has authority to mandate vaccines for town employees.

Agenda Item 3: DESE Update

Ms. Hallal shared what DESE stands for (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) and what it does. The mandate that DESE put out last week is that masks are to be worn indoors at school by both students and staff unless a medical related reason prohibits a person from doing so. The mandate further states that masks do

not have to be worn outdoors. This will be to at least October 1st where it will be evaluated. If 80% or more of school is vaccinated, then that school will no longer be required to follow DESE mandate. Ms. Hallal shared with the Board that she is in favor of the mandate due to the science around masks slowing the spread of COVID. Mr. Lindstrom shared studies that he had researched regarding mask wearing in schools which will be made available on the town's website. Mr. Mill questioned if the BOH should organize vaccination clinics to encourage increase in vaccination rates. Ms. Hallal shared that a vaccination bus will be at the middle school on September 10th and October 1st. An announcement will be made for this to the town. Ms. Harris asked Ms. Hallal if she approved the vaccination bus and what is the role of the BOH regarding decisions around mask mandates and vaccination clinics. Ms. Harris also stated that she wants to make sure that parent and guardian consent is given. Ms. Harris clarified that the DESE mandate states that students who are vaccinated can take off their masks if the school reaches a vaccination rate of 80 %. Students who are not vaccinated would have to continue to wear masks.

Mr. Mill made a motion to ask the Town Council what the Board of Health's authority around mask mandates and vaccination clinics i.e., jurisdiction and reach. Mr. Abdi seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Action Item: Ms. Hallal to send to him the vaccination rates by age demographics for town of Medway.

Agenda Item 4:
274 Village Street
Irrigation Well

Ms. Hallal was given the proper plan with the scale. Ms. Hallal recommends that the Board approves the irrigation well. Conservation is happy.

Mr. Lindstrom made a motion to approve the well. Mr. Mill seconded the motion. Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Agenda Item 5:
Farm Animal Permit
3 Beehives

Ms. Hallal shared that the beehives are included that beehives are included in the Board's Animal regulation. All requirements for the beehives have been satisfied. Ms. O'Brien reviews the acreage and this person placing the beehives does have needed acreage. Brenda from animal control oversees inspecting and following up once beehives are placed.

Mr. Lindstrom made a motion to approve the animal permit for the 2 beehives. Ms. Harris seconded the motion. The motion passed in a 4-0 vote.

Agenda Item 6:
H&M Excavating
Installers Permit

Ms. Hallal shared that the company satisfied insurance requirements. Conservation does not get involved.

Mr. Lindstrom made a motion to approve the permit. Mr. Mill seconded the motion. Motion passed in a 4-0 vote.

Agenda Item 7:
1 Copper Drive
New Septic System

4 lot subdivision, 4-bedroom system. 1 Copper Drive. Went through planning and conservation. Ms. Hallal recommends approval.

Ms. Tonelli made a motion to approve. Mr. Mill seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Agenda Item 8:
Coakley Concession
Stand
Radification

Ms. Hallal did inspection, inspection passed. Ms. Hallal called DESE to ask about mask mandates at the concession stand and those working there will have to wear masks. Ms. Hallal shared this with the coordinator of the concession stand. Ms. Harris asked about the workers wearing gloves. Ms. Hallal stated that gloves are worn. Mr. Lindstrom asked about who uses concession stand when rented out by

organizations/clubs outside of Medway. Ms. Harris asked about hand sanitizer. Ms. Hallal confirmed that those running the concession stand do put out sanitizer.

Mr. Lindstrom made a motion to approve the concession stand permit. Mr. Mill seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Agenda Item 9:
VNA
Flu/Vaccination
Clinics

Ms. Hallal shared that she is working with the Council on Aging on two tentative dates for vaccination clinics October 6th, 9:30 - 12 pm at the Senior Center and October 14th, 9:30 - 12 pm at the high school. Sandy Johnston, the Communications Director, will send out information to the public and it will be in the school.

Action Item: Ms. Hallal will speak with Sandy, the Communication Director about putting information out on the town's social media page and Medway cable.

Agenda Item 10:
Meeting Schedule

Mr. Lindstrom made the request that if there is a demand for permits, licenses, etc...meetings can be scheduled on the off weeks; otherwise, going forward the meetings will be the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month with the next meeting being September 13th.

Agenda Item 11:
Arborvirus
Surveillance Program
Report (Mosquitos)

6, 265 mosquitos tested. 66 Positive samples. A little over 1 %. Same as week before. One positive West Nile mosquito so far. Ms. Hallal went over spraying schedule. Jim Cane, Facilities Director, oversees extra spraying done at field through the IPM. Town of Medway can work with Norfolk County Mosquito Control to have extra spraying done at high school and middle school. Citizens can call Mosquito Control and they will come to private homes to assist with mosquito spraying at no cost. There is no extra cost for additional spraying on athletic fields. This information is posted on town website. Mr. Mill suggested advertising this service on the town social media page. Ms. Harris asked to discuss further at a separate meeting.

Agenda Item 12:
Other Business

- 4 million 449 thousand 226 people vaccinated in Massachusetts.
- 15,739 breakthrough cases (people who are vaccinated and get covid)
- 571 hospitalized of breakthrough cases.
- .003 percent of deaths of people with breakthrough cases
- Mass Department of Public Health is good at posting factual information.
- 13,067 people have been vaccinated in town of Medway
- 9,843 people have received one dose
- 9099 people fully vaccinated
- 2.83 positivity rate in Massachusetts
- 2.33 positivity rate in Norfolk County

Mr. Mill made a motion for Ms. Hallal to write a letter to DPH asking why the town of Medway cannot get specific town numbers on covid19. Mr. Lindstrom seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Action Item: Ms. Hallal to write to DPH inquiring how to obtain COVID specifics for the town of Medway.

Next Meeting Date: 09.13.2021 at 5:30pm via ZOOM

Adjourn: 6:42 PM

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Cahoon on 9/9/2021