

Ashland Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2021
Zoom/Online Meeting

Diane Mortensen, Chair
Ronald Etskovitz, Member
Barbra Sekesogundu Simon, Member

Chris Daniele, Vice Chair
Koduvayur Narayana, Member

Members Present Via Zoom Meeting:

Diane Mortensen, Chris Daniele, Ron Etskovitz, Koduvayur Narayana and Barbra Sekesogundu Simon

Others Present:

Laura Clifford, BOH Admin. Secretary
Sergeant Ed Burman, Ashland Police Department
Mark Dassoni, Resident
Dan McIntyre, McIntyre Engineering and Septic Services, Inc.

Call Meeting to Order - 6:00 PM

Ms. Mortensen called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM and noted the meeting was being recorded by WACA-TV.

Citizen's Participation

Mark Dassoni wished everyone a Happy February and thanked Ed Burman for all of his work, he saw him on Around the Clock and looks forward to hearing his updates tonight.

Introduction of new Member, Barbra Sekesogundu Simon

Ms. Mortensen formally welcomed new Board Member, Barbra Sekesogundu Simon, to the Board; Ms. Simon noted it has been interesting reading through the emails.

Updates on COVID-19

Sgt. Burman noted there is a lot going on. Our numbers are coming down a bit. We are anticipating a bump with February school vacation. We did see increases in those people who traveled out of state over the holidays, and there has been significant household spread. Schools have gone back to hybrid.

Sgt. Burman noted that he had been working in conjunction with Framingham and Holliston to offer vaccinations to school staff including crossing guards and bus drivers, just as they had finalized the plan, the State changed the Phase criteria, which moved school personnel to the end of Phase 2 and moved up seniors who are 75 and older.

Sgt. Burman noted he is thankful to John Robelli of the Ashland Fire Department who did a two-hour training to train paramedics on vaccine administration, now they can be utilized. Over the last two weeks we have been trying to get vaccine for Ashland, which has involved applying for an IPN number, and obtaining our application for Prep Mod. Sgt. Burman noted he has secured an agreement with Mattech Corporation who has offered to store the vaccine in one of their three sub-zero freezers. Sgt. Burman notified DPH we had storage capability. Shaun McAuliffe, Hopkinton Health Director, placed an order for 1,000 doses of Pfizer for Monday. Over the last couple of weeks, we have created a shared list of residents age 75 who will be notified when we have any information regarding a vaccine clinic. We also encourage residents to continue to look at other avenues at the

same time. In the event we receive vaccine, we will work through that list and partner with Hopkinton, Holliston, Sherborn and Westborough.

Sgt. Burman stressed that even those who have been diagnosed with Covid, still need to be vaccinated.

Students who go away during school vacation must quarantine for 10 days and fill out a travel form, the school nurse will be in contact with those families.

To obtain vaccinations for those in congregate settings, Waterview Lodge partnered with CVS, Residence at Valley Farms partnered with Walgreens, and last week Walgreens was at Mill Pond. Ashland Commons and Ashland House are making calls to CVS to have their residents done.

We have been keeping a spreadsheet of medical professionals who have offered assistance.

Sgt. Burman thanked Mattech Corp. again for their offer to store the vaccine in a secured area, they also have a backup generator.

46 Winter Street, Septic Waiver Requests

Dan McIntyre of McIntyre Engineering & Septic Services reviewed the project at 46 Winter Street. Mr. McIntyre showed on the screen the well location, the cesspool, and wetlands; he noted that the tank has collapsed and the project is under Emergency Order to get the tanks in. Mr. McIntyre explained he would like to request a local upgrade waiver to reduce groundwater offset to 3 feet, and waivers to Ashland regulations include having one percolation test, rather than two; trench spacing to 6 feet; and, distance to wetlands to 30 feet.

Motion: Mr. Narayana made a motion approve the waivers as explained by Tom Ryder's letter. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion is approved.

Consent Agenda

Budget, FY2021

Minutes, November 17, 2020, December 1, 2020, December 15, 2020 and January 5, 2021

Board of Health Agent/Director Position Accepting Resumes and interviewing (no updates)

Inter-Municipal Agreement for Nursing Services – Select Board to approve January 20, 2021 (no updates)

Member(s) attended MRC Sheltering Training, January 14, 2021

Member(s) attended decisions at Every Turn Meeting, January 12, 2021

Motion: Mr. Daniele made a motion to move the consent agenda. Mr. Narayana seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion is approved.

Discuss Agenda Topics for Future Meeting Dates, February 16, 2021

Next agenda items for discussion:

Board of Health Agent/Director position

Inter-Municipal Agreement for Nursing Services

Medical Reserve Corp

Nominations for the Mary Mortensen Public Health award.

Mr. Narayana inquired as to the status of the Inter-Municipal Agreement; Ms. Mortensen noted that it is on the Select Board's agenda this week. We also have not heard back from Framingham regarding their intentions.

Mr. Etskovitz inquired as to the Howe Street Landfill Reports; Ms. Mortensen noted that we rely on our consultants, they have not notified us that we need to take any action.

Ms. Mortensen noted that she spent some time talking with Cecelia Doucette, who will set up a committee to educate residents on the proper use of Wi-Fi. Ms. Mortensen did not feel it was in the Board's purview to focus on something they do not have jurisdiction over. Mr. Daniele noted that if information is going to be presented, both sides must be presented.

Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Narayana made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Daniele seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion is approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 2/2/2021 MEETING

(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)

1. Covid-19 Charts
2. 46 Winter Street, Plan and Waiver Requests, Memo from Tom Ryder
3. YTD Budget FY2021
4. A recording of the meeting can be found on WACA-TV