

TOWN OF STURBRIDGE, MA
BOARD OF HEALTH
Monday December 14, 2020
Virtual

Meeting Called to Order: 1:30 pm

Quorum Check: Confirmed

Members Present: Linda Cocalis (LC), Richard Volpe (RV)

Members Absent: George DeBusk

Others Present:

Ken Lacey (KL) Health Agent

Jeff Bridges (JB) Town Administrator

Tricia Valiton (TV) Health Inspector

1:30 pm – LC read the following into the record: “Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting law, G.L. c. 30A Section 18, and the Governor’s March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Sturbridge Board of Health will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation can be found on the Town’s website at <https://www.sturbridge.gov/town-administrator/pages/how-access-virtual-meeting>. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to listen and or watch the meeting either online via the Town’s on demand video broadcast, on cable television on channel 191, or dial into the meeting at 774-304-1455, enter 1428# for the meeting number and 12345 for the access code. (This phone number is only active for the public during public meetings). No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Town’s website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.”

1:32 pm – Minutes review- RV motion to approve November minutes, LC 2nd, AIF.

1:32 pm – Office & COVID-19 Updates- KL stated we hired a new Administrative Assistant since the last meeting. We had a drive-through flu clinic in November and administered about 180 shots. There were four towns there, and we had six nurses. It was successful and we learned a lot to apply to any future EDS activations. We are currently managing 38 active cases. As of last Wednesday we were at 168 total cases in Sturbridge. Our nurses are doing a really good job. Two weeks ago we went to a red community and we are likely to remain there. The entire state is in Phase 3 Step 1, so we would not have to transition back. KL met with the schools again last Thursday and is scheduled to meet with Dr. Nosek and two chairs of the School Committee to plan the return to school after holiday break. We

expect a surge as we've already seen after Halloween and Thanksgiving and want to be prepared. The state is due to receive the first round of vaccine this month and is prioritizing doses similar to how it was done for H1N1. It's not yet clear if local boards of health will be involved in vaccinating.

1:44 pm – Public Health Nurses discussion- KL asks the Board to backfill a nurse position. Lisa Meunier had sent us a recommendation for Susan Koblara. KL has spoken to her yesterday and today, she has over 40 years' experience and is local.

LC made a motion to appoint Susan Koblara as a backfill COVID Nurse, RV 2nd, AIF.

1:46pm – Old Business- KL stated permit renewals are still moving along and are set for the end of the month. There are 9 perc tests scheduled for the remainder of the month which brings us to over 30 by Christmas, which is more than we typically book all year.

Adjournment - Motion to adjourn at 1:49pm by LC, RV 2nd, AIF.