

TOWN OF STURBRIDGE, MA
BOARD OF HEALTH
MONDAY JANUARY 11, 2021
VIRTUAL

Meeting Called to Order: 2:00PM

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

Kayla LeBoeuf (KL) Administrative Assistant

Steve Zoto (SZ) Sturbridge Resident

2:00 PM - LC reads 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."

2:03 PM- Minutes review – LC motions to approve Decembers minutes, RV 2nd, AIF.

2:03 PM- Office & Covid-19 Updates- KL stated 333 total cases in town. It has been slowing down over the last week. School was back in session on Monday the 3rd but Wednesday the 6th there was a meeting to go remote Thursday and Friday and was approved for JR. and SR. High. Most transmissions are happening at home and not school. Group homes right now are showing the most clusters. With things opening back up and holiday socializing has been a cause for number increases. 2-3% transmission is happening in restaurants. Family gatherings seem to be an issue consistently over the region. JR and SR high schools has opted out of competitive basketball season. They are doing in house programs only.

2:13 PM- Covid Clinic Discussion – Harrington has had first responders vaccinated with their first shot two weeks ago. Clinic is only able to do about 180-190 people a day. Monday through Friday 7-7. Meeting was held last week asking for the 12 towns in the region for administrative support one day a week. There is an estimated 100,000 people wanting or needing shots. They want to up the numbers from 180-190 to 500 a day by January 18th. If successful they plan on opening two more clinics. East and west of the current location and be able to do 1000 + daily. One day a week support from Sturbridge will allow us to use the clinic for our residents. LC agrees the support would benefit us. KL mentions EMTS possibly down the line get involved as well giving the vaccination but right now the paper work and scheduling assistance is needed. Prep mod and Harrington training will help if we need to open a satellite. LC and RV accept. KL states Sue is the newest nurse and she is training with Lisa. Leslie at the senior center has a system to help notify the 75+ and the 65+ elders and for them to sign up online. Assisting with elder bus and services to get there. We have a list on a spreadsheet to reach out to 75+. Then will go to 65+ or two or more underlying illnesses.

2:49 PM- Steve Zoto Drinking water complaint – Complaint of drinking water since the 90's with salt and ice treatment on pike. Salt remediation program has submitted forms. Water is contaminated with high sodium and arsenic. Asking BOH to work with him to help fix/bring town water to that area. It is the opinion of Steve that it would be costlier to put in new wells or supply drinking water to these people. Lines would be a cheaper alternative. She wished she knew sooner of the issue. LC agrees to work with walker pond residents.

3:13PM – Budget –KL presented the budget to the Board. Increases are proposed for the community health nurses and for landfill cover material and tipping & hauling. This is due to the overages the last two years and the drop in the recycling market regionally and nationally. We are not sure if we will use all of the tipping and hauling budget but we have used 40% thus far. The landfill capacity survey was flown this month, we are still awaiting the completed study.

Adjournment 3:19 PM- RV has motioned for meeting adjourn LC 2nd. AIF

