

TOWN OF STURBRIDGE, MA
BOARD OF HEALTH
Monday November 9, 2020
Virtual

Meeting Called to Order: 2 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

2:00 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 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-virtualmeeting>. 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 of the Town’s website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.”

2:02 pm – Minutes review- RV motion to approve October minutes, LC 2nd, AIF.

7:03 pm – Office & COVID-19 Updates- KL said the state map has been updated and the Red-Yellow-Green metrics have changed, waiting for the new map to be posted this week. There are 8 active cases in Sturbridge currently. Gatherings and mask orders changed on Friday. KL requests guidance on mask enforcement from the Board. LC wants us to do what we can with the resources we have. RV said we’ve done a great job so far with businesses, there are signs everywhere in town. What we are doing is good. LC has concerns about putting our staff in unsafe situations. RV & LC agree that we should continue to do what we have been and what our resources allow.

2:11pm – LC stated that a Selectman asked her about testing at the schools. LC asks if other towns are doing this? If we do it weekly how many tests would be required? KL stated that no towns around us are doing broad testing. DESE has said that school nurses could be trained to test staff on site as needed. Our school nurse went to the training. Our district opted out of the DESE pilot program. KL states that he spoke with Dr. Nosek but concerns about funding and contamination are strong. They don't know how they could require all staff and students to be tested. There are plenty of testing sites in our area, such as Harrington and CVS. Rapid testing supplies are low, and PCR tests take 2-4 days to get results presently.

-KL states that a couple businesses in town have had positive employees. They closed down longer than required as extra precaution and have sent employees out for testing. The businesses are doing a great job in these situations.

-RV asks if our buildings are closing? JB answers that it depends on the numbers we see this week and we may move to appointment only.

-KL we are hosting a Regional Flu Clinic this weekend. It will be drive-through and other local Boards of Health will be there. LC asks how this is being funded? KL answers that our Public Health Nurse is bringing in the vaccines which is paid for through the State and private insurance of those receiving the vaccine. We will also have two police officers there. LC asks how they are being paid? KL answers that it could be considered Emergency Dispensing Site training funds, but he's waiting to see how the Chief invoices it. LC asks if the State can reimburse us? KL answers that we could ask the other towns to chip in for the detail. LC & RV agree that we should ask the other towns to contribute for the police detail.

2:45pm – Administrative Assistant discussion- LC recommends Karen for the offer. RV 2nd. LC motion to make an offer for the position to Karen Aubin, RV 2nd, AIF.

2:46pm – Old Business- KL wants the Board to know that our office remains extremely busy. So far we have put out 21 septic permits since July 1st, and he is booking at least one perc test per week and has 3 next week alone. About 60% are repairs and 40% are new systems. We are projected to hit 50-60 permits this year, which is up from the usual 30-40.

Adjournment - Motion to adjourn at 2:48pm by LC, RV motion to adjourn, LC 2nd, AIF.