

TOWN OF STURBRIDGE, MA
BOARD OF HEALTH
Wednesday October 21, 2020
Virtual

Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 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

7:00 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.”

7:02 pm – Minutes review- RV motion to approve September minutes, LC 2nd, AIF.

7:03 pm – COVID-19 Updates & Schools reopening discussion- KL stated there are 6 active cases in town currently. As cases in the state are increasing keep in mind that hospitalizations and deaths haven’t gone up, which suggests that a younger population is testing positive. In our town, transmission has not been in the schools but staff have tested positive. LC stated that the Host Hotel had questions about how they can use their space, so KL reached out to the state and got confirmation that we are interpreting the guidance accurately. KL will follow up with Host Hotel as well as Public House. LC asked if Halloween information is posted on our website. KL confirmed that information has been listed by several town departments on social media as well as the town website. A public

information request was received, which was also sent to all 351 towns in Massachusetts. KL will respond.

7:16pm – Health Nurse appointments- Discussion about Special Municipal Employees. KL would like to appoint Michelle Seremet, Lisa Meunier, Ashley Chakkiath and Kathy Charette.

7:18pm – RV motion to approve four Health Nurses, LC 2nd, AIF.

7:18pm – Recycling Center discussion- KL explained why there is an opening. Jessica Booth would like to stay on in the position through the winter.

7:20pm – Administrative Assistant discussion- KL & LC conducted three interviews this week for the position. One candidate stood out with municipal and health department experience. KL & LC would like to offer the position to Priscilla Clowes.

7:22pm – RV motion to make an offer letter to Priscilla Clowes, LC 2nd, AIF.

7:23pm – Old Business – LC discussed racetrack and will be contacting someone to see if any other towns have had a racetrack. RV stated that a letter went out to all residents and it mentioned a casino. JB stated that the materials only went out to about fifty residents and there is no proposal for slots or a casino. KL asked to schedule the next meeting for Monday November 9th at 2pm, LC & RV agreed.

Adjournment - Motion to adjourn at 7:28pm by LC, RV 2nd, AIF.