

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

Meeting Called to Order: 1:00 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

Erin Carson (EC) Administrative Assistant

1:00 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.”

1:03 pm – Minutes review- LC motion to approve August minutes, RV 2nd, AIF 2-0.

– **Office News and COVID-19 Updates-** KL stated there are 3 active cases in town. The office has been working with Hyland and other establishments for large gatherings including the upcoming apple season.

RV-There has been a lots of talk about an establishment in town online and throughout town.

KL-Teddy G’s disclosed that an employee was positive for Covid. They closed down Friday and hired an outside company to deep clean the entire building. They followed all Public Health protocols including working with our Public Health nurse for contact tracing.

OSV Academy opened last week and Tantasqua Union 61 opens Wednesday September 16th KL worked at length with School nurses and Administration for the reopening plan and reports the our schools are in great shape.

- **Health Nurses discussion-** currently we have two Public Health Nurses, KL would like four. If there was an outbreak at one or more of our schools we will need more coverage. There is funding for the nursing hours in the BOH Covid account and any overage would be covered with the Revolving account. LC-We will need to create a job description and advertise for the open nursing positions.

1:13pm – LC motion to bring forward to the Select Board a recommendation for our Public Health nurses to become Special Town Employees, RV 2nd, AIF.

- **EDS discussion-** KL discussed with the Board a regional EDS set up in the event of a Covid vaccine. KL would work with the towns in Union 61 to get enough staffing to provide coverage, the location could be the Tantasqua High School and KL will work with Jamie Terry to set up a plan for the High School to be prepared as early as October.

- **Recycling Center New Hire** The RC manager John Booth and KL interviewed a candidate, John Christianson for the open position at the RC. JC is a former DPW employee and should make for a great fit for our department.

1:27pm – LC motion to appoint Joh Christianson to the Recycling Center Assistant position, pending pre-employment physical and screenings, RV 2nd, AIF 2-0.

- **508 International in Charlton follow-up** – Sturbridge BOH sent packets to the Charlton Board of Selectmen and BOH with concerns raised at the last meeting. 508 International has withdrawn the entertainment application to the Charlton BOS the day before the meeting.

- **Old Business** Litigation with the Allards is pending October 8th via Zoom. Town Counsel will update the BOH with more details when they become available. KL reports that our Facilities Manager will review the alarms systems for the whole town including the Recycling Center for the next fiscal year.

***New Business**

LC-There is a potential horse track near the CT border, the BOH might have potential nuisance/noise concerns similar to 508 International. KL will keep the BOH updated on any information he receives on this project. JB shared that the project is in the very early stages and the proposal is enter the property through CT and have little impact with traffic or noise to Sturbridge.

Adjournment - Motion to adjourn at 1:43pm by LC, 2nd: RV, AIF 2-0.

Next meeting, Wednesday October 21, 2020 at 6 pm

