

Westhampton Board of Health
Minutes to Meeting of
October 1st,2020

Present: Robbie Armenti (RA), David Blakesley (DB), Tom Martin (TM), Mark Bushee (MB), Dale Kasal (DK), Paul Kennedy, HRHS School Committee (PK), Kristen Smidy, HRHS Principle, (KS) John Plourd, HRHS Athletic Director (JP) and present remotely Molly Butler (MB).

Meeting to order at 1:09 and adjourned at 3:30 EST.

- 1) DB moves with RA seconding to approve minutes of September 24th meeting. Motion passes unanimously.
- 2) KS discusses test run by HRHS nursing staff of positive case of Covid in the school. Areas that it is agreed needs to be ironed out is seat assignments within the classroom and record keeping with the transportation environment, specifically on buses. KS is confident that availability of this important information can be improved. It is agreed that the test was helpful and another needs to be conducted soon.
- 3) KS before the Board for comments, suggestions and approval of Senior Activities at HRHS: October 9th Sunrise event; October 15th Movie under the Stars; and Halloween Parade on October 30th. All events to outdoors, masked required, social distancing required, no touch food distribution required and all to be supervised by HRHS staff. 99 students possible but fewer expected (about 70). KS explains that students need to feel part of a class and that remote learning does not offer this: the social part of student life needs to be included. Transportation is discussed. RA expresses concern that students from different households will be coming to the events together. KS notes that school families are already forming informal learning pods to conduct remote learning and it is likely that transportation will follow these informal groupings. TM notes this was expected by the State when it issued guidance to schools to seek alternative methods of school transportation to relieve overcrowding on buses. DB notes there is not any way for the BOH to enforce or dictate these informal learning /transport pods. MB confirms that schools are exempt by Governor's Order from the gathering limitations as regards number of participants. DB moves to approved these senior activities. TM seconds and the motion passes unanimously.
- 4) JP before the Board for comments, suggestions and discussion of sports activities with the HRHS. JP notes that about 180 students are participating in Field Hockey, Soccer, Golf, Cross Country and Gymnastics. JP shared with the Board a document titled "Hampshire Regional Athletics Health and Safety Guidance and Protocols for review. Health and Safety Protocols are discussed in detail as well as the Institutional Origins of the protocols including use of cohorts, equipment, practices, games, competition groups, sports seasons, transportation, masking and record keeping for contact tracing and screening. JP will serve as the official Covid liaison with the nursing team to assist in contact tracing within the school sports environment. Next test runs of positive case and tracing lines should include a student in this sphere of activity.

- 5) DK before the Board with an updated proposal for use of Town Hall for pickleball. Changes are discussed in detail. Board to work a document of guidelines for use of Town Hall for community recreational activities. The Board is not in total agreement that community recreational activities should resume at this time. DK is adamant that such activities could be conducted safely and are of public benefit.
- 6) Board discusses email to be sent to Select board and Agricultural Committee regarding complaint by Barbara Pelissier of agricultural spraying drifting into her property. Board agrees to send a revised explanation of events with its viewpoint and request for further action on the matter to Select board and Agricultural Committee .
- 7) Board discusses the Food Bank Kiosk on Congregational Church property and next steps for possibly moving this community service into the kitchen area of the Church (outdoor kiosk was disrupted by a bear). Chris Wayne is taking the point position on this and wanted the Boards input while he goes through approval process with Church leaders. Could it be self-service? Yes, it seems with proper signage and oversight (Mark to double check on this). Could a refrigerator be purchased with Cares ACT funds to be used for some perishables.
- 8) TM and DB to review proposal for indoor lunch at Westhampton Elementary School when weather conditions prevent eating outdoors. Friday Morning. Board discusses safety protocols at Westhampton Elementary School surrounding bus transport and TM to discuss them in the morning with Deane Bates.
- 9) Board adjourns till next week.