

Westhampton Board of Health

Minutes to meeting of

October 22nd, 2020

To order @ 1:09 and adjourned 2:07

Present: Robby Armenti (RA), Tom Martin (TM), Mark Bushee (MB), Dale Kasal (DK), Diane Thornhill (DT), remotely David Blakesley (DB)

- 1) RA moves to approve minutes of meeting of October 15th, 2020 with changes in item 3 where the word agreed is changed to voted. TM seconds and the motion passes with DB abstaining (not able to attend this meeting).
- 2) The Board takes up pickleball in Town Hall again. Document is prepared to send to Selectboard indicating Board has voted to endorse and monitor a three-week trial period of pickleball play in Town Hall with conditions. DB notes that, despite last week's vote to endorse, he does not believe it is prudent to open Town Hall at this time for several reasons (no back up place to have public meetings, safety of town employees, difficulty heating building with window open for play and increased general usage for other groups if this is allowed) but finds the document produced for Selectboard and the safety guidelines conditioned are okay. TM expresses his concern that has developed over the week that it is unfair of pickleball players in Westhampton to reduce their risk of playing the sport is a large gym/tennis setting while adding to the risk of government officials using the building for Town business. DK notes that pickle ball play as practiced by Board guidelines will not increase risk to others and takes issue with TM characterizing the group's request as transferring personal risk of Covid transmission by play of the sport in Town Hall, onto others. RA notes that the Board has already voted to endorse, and it is inappropriate to reconsider now and will damage the Boards' credibility. MB notes that there is more risk associated with increased use of a space in a very general sense. DK notes that there is no other place in the Valley that allows for indoor play of the sport.
- 3) DT before the Board to request that Town Hall be as a gathering space for a group of Westhampton Residents who gather on Mondays to knit. RA notes a recent conversation with Westhampton Librarian that it may be possible for this group to meet in the community room. DT states that the group is rarely over 10 and pre Covid met in the Judd room at the Library. RA notes that HVAC reports for library, schools and Town Hall have been completed and should be available for review.
- 4) RA notes that Kristen Smitty would like time on the next agenda to discuss school HVAC at HRHS and other matters. RA notes the Town Librarian would like time on the next agenda as well.
- 5) RA reports on safe, appropriate, positive and sweet senior event (Under the Stars Movie night) that she was pleased to witness.
- 6) MB notes no new Covid cases in Westhampton and that he is busy with septic work.