

Westhampton Board of Health Minutes February 18, 2021

Attending: Robby Armenti (RA), David Blakesley (DB), Tom Martin, Chair (TM), Mark Bushee, Health Agent (MB) – Guests: Margaret Larson (ML), Shirl Morgan (SM), Kristen Smidy (SM)

Call to Order: 1:03 PM

1. Minutes of Feb.4, 2021

- Motion to approve – DB, seconded by TM
- Approved unanimously

2. Hampshire Regional School Update

- KS – four subjects to cover: Football, Indoor track, Transportation, Windows
- Windows – Clarification
 - a. Interpretation varies, staff needs clarification from Board
 - b. TM – in order for the measurement to be meaningful, the circulation must be significant.
 - c. TM reminds everyone about masking
 - d. DB reiterates that windows should be open to the greatest degree practical
 - e. ML says they are getting pressure from parents that students are too cold
 - f. Board sympathizes, but says they can “bundle up” and getting sick is worse than being too cold.
 - g. KS – consistency among classrooms can be a problem with students’ compliance.
 - h. KS – suggests starting point – every other window open 2 inches.
 - i. RA reminds to increase as weather warms – Board will revisit.
- Transportation
 - a. KS discusses new regulations from DESE
 - b. DB recommends that we keep our 6’ distancing on busses despite DESE regs.
 - c. Board agrees, especially for contact tracing purposes.
- Track, etc.
 - a. KS says Track moved to Fall 2 sport, as well as Basketball
 - b. Track will be outside as much as possible
 - c. Tryouts start March 1st; Season is March 10 – April 24th
 - d. DB feels that Track should be outdoors, especially since Basketball was moved to “practice only.”
 - e. ML says Basketball is being reviewed. Also Track is not a face-to-face sport.
 - f. Board agrees, with COVID Coach and protocols in place, to go ahead with Track and Basketball for Fall 2

- Football – Combined with Easthampton
 - a. KS – notes that Easthampton has, so far, been remote this year
 - 1. All outdoors
 - 2. Easthampton is the host school, but the field is at Hampshire Regional
 - 3. 25 total players
 - 4. No Junior Varsity team
 - 5. There would be a COVID Coach
 - b. DB asks about the students coming back to school in Easthampton
 - c. TM notes that the transmission in Easthampton is uneven and testing is at around 4,000.
 - d. Discussion about contact tracing in schools and between schools
 - e. Board shown MIAA modifications
 - f. RA speaks to some reasons why there should not be football. Concerns around contact tracing, older students
 - g. DB also concerned about teaming with other schools
 - h. TM notes the football is the most contact intensive sport other than wrestling; very obviously high risk and hard to conduct safely.
 - i. Board agrees not to recommend for this year, but notes if school recommends this sport, they will work with school to help with safety protocols.
- KS reports that there were two large parties during the school break in which students from HRHS were included. KS sent a note to the HRHS students telling them that they would have to quarantine until tested and found negative. She also sent a note home to the student body about going to parties and will be sending us a copy of that note.

3. COVID Update

- There are three cases in two households.
- We are averaging three cases a week.

4. Vaccinations

- RA attended a meeting where she can request a Vaccine Ambassador to speak with people in the town and on Town Boards. She will request one.
- Northampton Senior Center and Amherst are due to become Mass Vaccine centers.

5. Health Agent Update

- 69 Northwest Road
 - a. MB spoke with Building Inspector who said he has never looked at the place.
 - b. Owner will get the septic looked at after the snow is gone.
 - c. DB says a Title V needs to be done.

- d. MB says he will be in touch with him.
 - e. TM says to write an order for a Title V by April 15th.
 - MB says that Mark Thompson said that he had no way of knowing that permit was in place, then walked it back and asked Mark to apologize to Board.
 - Mailing Address
 - a. What comes to Foothills
 - 1. Permits, Licenses, Titles, Plans
 - b. What comes to Westhampton
 - 1. Junk, flyers, etc.
 - c. Mark will pick up all mail and sort.
6. Annex Protocol
- TM if one person is working by his or her self, then mask can be off.
 - If more than one person is working, masks should be worn.
 - The Annex is closed. Therefore, most business between two or more people should be done remotely, if possible. If not, it should be done outside, if possible
 - Can people be seen with an appointment?
 - The Board feels the Annex should remain closed.
 - TM will touch base with Cheryl.
7. Dog Bite
- Board will ask Selectboard to be in touch with MB, but feels we are not equipped to deal with this situation.
8. Town Meeting for Safety Complex Building
- DB asks if we have any role in this meeting
 - TM says not so far.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Robby Armenti