

Westhampton Board of Health Minutes March 18, 2021

Attending: Robby Armenti (RA), David Blakesley (DB), Tom Martin, Chair (TM) Guests: Lauren Hotz (LH), Dale Kasal (DK), Amy Landau (AL), Julia Lennen (JL), Shirl Morgan (SM), Meaghan Schwealm (MS), Kristen Smidy (KS)

Call to Order: 1:04 PM

1. Minutes of March 4th, 2021

- Motion to accept – DB, Second – TM
- Accepted unanimously

2. MS – Hoping for an April 12th re-opening day

- Areas open
 - a. Main Lobby, adult stacks, children and teen areas
 - b. Books and movies available
- Currently curbside
- Discussion about windows being open. Will they be enough without opening doors? Birds fly in. Board believes that windows will be sufficient.
- Discussion surrounding appointments for patrons. (See later in notes.)
- MS will want patrons to continue to wear masks.
- MS would like to have a senior only browsing time.
- MS questions how many days could they feasibly be open. Three or four days. Board will consider.
- MS asks Board about cleaning protocols.
 - a. TM replies that they are still a priority, but virus spread primarily through the air.
 - b. RA says DPH is not making “deep cleaning” not as high priority, which is why schools are opening full time without the middle day used for deep cleaning.
 - c. DB agrees. Feels it is all right to open another day. Thinks that open windows is most important, as transmission through the air is a higher risk.
- MS would like to have up to 10 patrons at a time plus staff. TM thinks that is reasonable.
- JL asks if curbside would continue. MS replied yes.
- MS asked about whether gloves were necessary.
- RA wondered if they could be optional.
- AL noted that in supermarkets, patrons are asked to remove gloves
- JL noted that children should be supervised (MS replied, of course.)
- TM feels that gloves can be available but not mandatory.
- More discussion about appointments. MS feels they are good for contact tracing.

- More discussion about doors and windows being open.
- MS talks about quarantining books
 - a. Currently they are quarantined for 7 days.
 - b. TM would like to see quarantining stay in place.
 - c. DB discusses about how efficient quarantining books really is as we bring things home from stores without contracting the virus. Do we really need to do this?
 - d. RA on the fence. Would like to know more about how the staff feels.
 - e. DK likes the quarantine.
- Discussion of Sign in Sheet versus Appointments (Brought up by DK)
 - a. TM agrees this may be a good idea
 - b. MS likes this idea
 - c. RA and DB agree
 - d. DK and RA would like to make sure the signatures are legible.
- TM will write up recommendations; make sure masking and safety protocols stay in place.

3. Schools

- KS and LH sent DESE Guidelines to Board.
- TM – seems clear that DESE is pushing out LBoH recommendations and pushing its own agenda.
- KS – discussion of DESE recommendations of distancing re opening in April full time including lunch.
 - a. Will depend on negotiations between school and unions.
 - b. KS notes that they can comply with some. Have questions about others.
 - c. DB wonders how the Board can help. Is the school asking for a waiver?
 - d. KS – asking for input on lunch and classrooms. In terms of distancing, can they be inside or outside?
 - e. KS notes that remote learning is no longer a priority. Only 10% will be remote.
 - f. 600 students are coming back. There will be four lunches, 150/lunch.
 - g. DB notes that there is money available; now would be the time to use it.
 - h. TM feels strongly that there should be 6' between students during lunch. Feels state is "squeezing" schools.
 - i. RA feels that now that the weather is warm enough, all lunches can be outside, even in rain. Money can be used to buy tents for use outside. This is true for the elementary school, too.
 - j. TM brings up transportation. Discussion about how difficult it will be to handle.
 - k. TM notes that double masking is very important.
 - l. KS notes that they have advertised for more staff, but very few applicants.
 - m. JL suggests advertising on local and public sites
 - n. TM asks about summer school.

- o. KS replies that there will be summer school part time, 4 hours a day.
- KS will come to future Board meetings to discuss Activities, Spring Sports, and Commencement.

- 4. Council on Aging
 - AL – anticipating questions about opening up programs.
 - These include luncheons, Chair Yoga, lectures, etc.
 - TM – how many at events?
 - JL – at luncheons often 30 – 60 attending.
 - Bob Miller’s computer class – 5 or 6 people
 - Breakfast – about 12 people.
 - JL – many are interested in outdoor gatherings. Would like guidance
 - TM will write up guidance and be in touch.

- 5. Safety Complex
 - TM will write email to Mark, Phil and the Board.

- 6. 69 Northwest Road
 - DB – When did owner take possession?
 - TM – Aug. 2020
 - DB – Title V needs to be done within 6 months.
 - Has not been done.

Meeting adjourned 2:33 PM