

Westhampton Board of Health Minutes Nov. 12, 2020

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Present: Robby Armenti (RA), David Blakesley (DB), Jeff Brooks (JB), Mark Bushee (MB), Molly Butler (MBu), Lauren Hotz (LH), Dale Kasal (DK), Paul Kennedy (PK), Margaret Larsen (ML), Tom Martin (TM), Carl Schlerman (CS), Kristen Smidy (KS)

Meeting called to order: 1:04 PM

1. Motion made by DB to accept Minutes of Nov.5th. Seconded by RA. Accepted unanimously, no discussion.

2. Update of School District Recommendations for QTR 2.

- KS spoke how she, ML, and PK met and strategized how to meet Board's recommendations.
- Most students will only be there for half days, but there will be about 20 students staying for lunch. There will be days that will be too bad, weather-wise, for them to eat outdoors. The options would be to have them eat in classrooms or the cafeteria where there are two exterior doors that could be opened. They are opting for this choice. They feel there is more circulation of air and when the filters are installed fully, the space will be larger.
- KS asked whether the recommendations could clarify better whether the staff could eat indoors alone, by themselves or in a small group.
- KS said that the counselors needed clarification about whether they could meet with their students in the early part of the day masked and then, when students leave and they are in their offices alone and Zooming with their students remotely, they could then remove their masks.
- KS also would like to see lessons for the school community surrounding close contacts, mask breaks, how to exit and enter, and how to continue safe behavior outside of school (carpooling, in the community, in home, with friends, etc.)
- PK said the system upgrade was continuing (a little slower than he would like to see,) but open spaces were an ongoing focus. They will be monitoring and maintaining the system on an ongoing basis.
- TM reminded everyone about the twice a day air purge that are being written into the recommendations.
- ML says teachers are highly motivated to help students follow guidelines.
- DB says he is reluctant to see more than one person in a room at one time without masks, however if students have to eat indoors, the cafeteria would be

better than classrooms. Both TM and RA note that the elementary school uses the cafeterium on very bad weather days.

- PK notes that the tables would be sanitized before and after use.
- RA asks that there would be assigned seating for contact tracing.
- ML speaks to teachers, counselors, and staff eating inside, the need to be cognizant of time.
- RA states that there seems to be three options: eating outdoors, eating alone in rooms, and eating in small groups.
- DB asks how many staff share offices and KS states there are 12. PK and KS wonder if those staff could eat in the cafeteria after the students are done. Board concurs.
- RA asks about KS's statement about counselors and Zooming and TM says he thinks that it should be fine, especially if there is a purge around 11:15 and the room is cleaned. DB also likes the idea of purging the air in the morning and again at 11:15.
- TM speaks about the value of the lessons, especially of those of close contacts within and out of school.
- KS will be here to speak about winter sports at a later date.
- TM will write up the recommendations including what was discussed (purging, HVAC, procedures, etc.) and distribute the draft to the Board.

3. Sector specific recommendations for town hall activities.

- JB was introduced and said that mainly the space would be used for older Scouts as he was pretty sure the Cub Scouts would be over the individual limit for the space.
- RA asked if the Scouts were all from Westhampton or if they came from other towns, as well. JB said that they and one of the leaders came from Easthampton and Chesterfield as well as Westhampton.
- RA asked how many Scouts there were. JB said that there were 8 - 10 Scouts plus two leaders.
- RA asked what kind of activities they would be involved with, for example, in terms of heavy or light activity? JB replied that most Town Hall activity would not be active, nor would it be "hands on" so that they could keep the six foot distancing. KS offered a projector for their use.
- DB wondered if the Fire Station might be a better place for them to meet. JB said that he had spoken with David Antosz and he had been reluctant for them to use that space. RA also asked about the Church. JB felt that since historically the Town Hall was where the Scouts had met, he would like to see that venue continue going forward, if possible, especially when COVID is no longer an issue.
- TM says he will write up the recommendations and be in touch with JB.

4. Report of the Health Agent

- MB reports that there is one new case in town. Close contacts are coming in now.
- TM spoke about this at the Select Board meeting concerning this. Because of this they have tabled the Pickleball Trial for now. He also spoke about HVAC systems and will be in touch with Phil about the printouts that were sent. The Board seemed to feel that the information was not clear. TM will stress when he contacts Phil that fresh air is still best.
- MB still extremely busy with a lot of work. Will have Alex go to schools when new quarter starts.

5. Recommendations for Westhampton Library winter months

- Meaghan looking for Board's recommendations
- The Community can be open when the Library is open, but not during browsing hours. There would be a limit of 5 people.
- In the Library proper, there would be a limit of 8 people including staff and volunteers and public. The windows should be open, heat on if necessary.
- A sign in/sign out sheet would be necessary for contact tracing.
- The Judd Room could be used as a quarantine room for books.
- TM will write up the recommendations.

6. New Business

- TM will be meeting with Matt Hurd, the new custodian, about cleaning the Town Hall and other town buildings.
- Discussion of using Zoom for future meetings.

Adjourn 3:00 PM