

Westhampton Board of Health Minutes May 20, 2021

Attending: Robby Armenti (RA), David Blakesley (DB), Mark Bushee, Health Agent (MB), Tom Martin, Chair (TM)) Guests: Morley Cleary (MC), Maureen Dempsey (MD), Lauren Hotz (LH), Pat Miller (PM), Meaghan Schwelm (MS), Kristen Smidy (KS)

Call to Order: 1:01 PM

1. Minutes

- Minutes from 4/22/21 - motion to accept, seconded.
- Passed unanimously
- Minutes from 4/29/21 – motion to accept, seconded
- Passed unanimously

2. May 29th Governor's Order

- State will no longer provide guidance
- On June 15th, the State of Emergency will be lifted pending “all clear.”
- DB asks if local Boards of Health will be responsible for guidance
- RA says that listening to DPH, LBOH's are still asked to guide, but the state will not give legal support.
- TM responds that LBOH's will be more guides and give recommendations when asked.

3. Memorial Day

- MD reports that at first they were going to repeat what they did last year – stay in cars
- Then, the committee decided they would walk with masks.
- Now, they are wondering if it is possible to walk without masks.
- There will be a speaker; no picnic
- TM is thinking of size, distancing, and family grouping.
- MD believes it will be small this year.
- RA believes that optional masks would be all right, but would like to see a 6 foot distance maintained.
- DB agrees – would like to see an announcement made to that effect.
- TM also agrees, says that people can gauge their own comfort level.
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4. Gale Wright's Celebration of Life Service

- PM would like guidance
- There will be a ceremony in the Church
- Board says it is all right to serve cookies and coffee.
- Board says people can wear masks or not according to their own comfort level.

5. Library

- MS has concerns about not masking inside Library even though the State has given permission to do so after the 29th.
 - a. MB believes it is okay to be cautious within town buildings and offices
 - b. TM says Board can make recommendations to support Library Staff's comfort level.
 - c. DB asks MB about Williamsburg's town mask mandate.
 - d. MB says there will still be masks in the town offices and on transportation.
 - e. DB asks if that was mandated by the Board of Health – MB – yes.
 - f. Discussion of town wishes of mask mandate. (Note: Selectboard would like Board to make recommendations for town buildings and/or offices.)
 - g. DB and TM ask MS to speak with Library Trustees to write out and present recommendations to the Board. (Note: MS sent Library recommendations to the Board in a separate email.)
- MS notes that three groups, all vaccinated, want to meet in the Library
 - a. If they meet in separate rooms, do they need to be masked?
 - b. MB believes that if they are in a private room, no; if in a public space; yes.
- MS speaks about the Library Summer Program
 - a. They will be having a distinguished acrobat
 - b. She will be performing outside
 - c. Registration will be required.
 - d. There is no rain date
 - e. If indoors, because of rain, two smaller presentations may be required.
 - f. Kristen Smidy offered the possibility of the use of HRHS tents if it rains and MS will look into that, gratefully!

6. Fall Festival

- MC says that although the Festival occurs the Sunday after Columbus day and seems like it is far away, the PTO and Library have to start planning soon.
- MC would like to know about the feasibility of having it this year.
- It is a big family event.
- She needs to know about food and food preparation; she knows it could be scaled down or altered.
- In the past, the Library has been used for bathrooms.
- MB notes that all food has to be made in an inspected kitchen.
- MB also notes that certain exemptions can be made for potluck events.

- The Board is in favor of holding a modified Fall Festival and would like to wait until the State of Emergency is lifted and then get in touch with MC and MS and go from there.

7. School

- Graduation
 - a. KS notes that now there is no capacity limit
 - b. There is also no mask requirement outside.
 - c. She says that now each grad. can have 10 guests with more on a wait list.
 - d. Parking will be a problem; they are working on it.
 - e. They will be going from 600 to 1,000 people.
 - f. TM asks if there is a plan to go with State guidance with no masking?
 - g. KS says there will be assigned seating with the lottery.
 - h. They are hoping to have parking passes.
 - i. Each graduate will have two parking spots with an option for a third.
 - j. For help with graduation:
 - Police
 - 25 staff members
 - Fire Dept. for help with fireworks
 - k. DB suggests parking at the elementary school with a shuttle bus
 - l. KS takes this under advisement
 - m. No rain date/ it will not rain!
- Other Activities
 - a. Bonfire at the Library
 - 80 people
 - Small band
 - 6:30 – 9 PM
 - b. Camping trip this weekend
 - c. Banquet at the Log Cabin in two weeks
- Board of Health congratulates KS on all her hard work and says they will miss her.

8. Health Agent

- 7 Blueberry Hill
 - a. MB has emailed Allen Weiss.
 - b. Has not issued a permit yet.
 - c. Needs a new copy of the plan.
 - d. The installation is illegal until the plan is approved.
 - e. DB saw work happening, he thinks.
 - f. MB will check and fine, if necessary.
- KOA
 - a. MB will check on them on Monday.

- b. TM – remind them to monitor water systems.
- c. DB – did upper systems pass or fail?
- d. TM – passed, but check flow at the two upper bath houses for future septic work.
- e. Ask if they have installed meters.

9. Foothills

- TM notes that the FHD has agreed to accept the Excellence Grant at \$220,000 for the next three years.
- The Sub-committee is working to hire staffing.
- Working towards digitizing.

Adjourn – 2:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Robby Armenti