

Westhampton Board of Health Minutes February 5, 2022 - Revised

Attending: Robby Armenti (RA), Katch Bacheller (KB), Tom Martin, Chair (TM) Guest: Janice Pegels (JP)

Call to order: 9:17 AM

- I. Minutes
 - a. Need to approve last three Meeting Minutes
 - b. Approval of Minutes put off until next meeting

- II. Janice Pegels (JP) representing Pine Island Lake Association
 - a. Testing E. coli levels in various places
 - b. Referred to Board of Health by Water Quality Board
 - c. TM notes that the BoH can advise, with the Health Director, but, because the Association is private, we can't remediate.
 - d. TM feels that septic systems, along with other items are probably the cause.
 - e. TM notes that the BoH is not jurisdictional, except for Title V work.
 - f. TM will email Mark Bushee, Health Director (explanation of role of Health Director.)
 - g. JP asks if there is any way to find out if septic systems are functioning
 - h. TM – Yes, officially and unofficially
 - Officially with a Title V
 - Unofficially - voluntary
 1. The Board will not witness.
 2. The results are not made public.
 - i. Discussion of septic systems.
 - j. JP asks if there is any way to mandate an inspection of a septic system
 - k. TM – yes, if anyone gets sick or if there is an obvious bad smell.
 - l. JP – asks if algae blooms can be tied into septic system problem
 - m. TM – possibly
 - n. Discussion on public vs. private beaches
 - o. Discussion of emergency plans with P.I.L.A.
 - p. TM will request copies of emergency scenarios from Todd Alexander for our review.

- III. Finance Committee
 - a. TM met with them
 - b. No real concerns
 - c. Should stay the same for the next two – five years.

- IV. CDC – Vaccines available for all in the near future.

- V. Tom's List of Thoughts on Maintaining the Westhampton Board of Health
 - a. KB well thought out list
 - b. All vote to accept list except for one item (1 year term.)

- VI. FHD
 - a. Still don't have a candidate for a Health Agent
 - b. We are still one person down
 - c. Personnel sub-committee still working on the Policy
 - d. Will then start to work on the FHD by-laws.
 - e. Both Janet and Mark are helping people work with online permitting.

- VII. COVID
 - a. There are five people in town with COVID, one hospitalized.
 - b. Mike Archbald working well with school nurses.
 - c. He finds it difficult to contact trace as many people are using at home testing without following up with a PCR test at a center.

- VIII. PPE
 - a. RA – reported to the Selectboard what the FHD decided about purchasing test kits.
 - FHD was not able to get a response OR order tests from any one of the companies feasible.
 - The FHD member tried many times without success.
 - The FHD decided to abandon trying to purchase test kits:
 - 1. No response from companies
 - 2. Likely backordered.
 - 3. Westhampton had ordered 70 – 90 kits for Emergency and Town personnel
 - 4. Not all the towns were on board with ARPA funds.
 - The Westhampton Selectboard was not pleased with the decision.
 - b. RA has agreed to look into N95, KN95, and KN94 masks for the FHD and, also, report back to the Board and the Selectboard.

Adjourn 10:45 AM

Next Meeting Sat. March 5, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

Robby Armenti

Clerk, Westhampton Board of Health