

Sudbury Board of Health

Virtual Meeting 5/25/2021

Attendees: Carol Bradford – Board Chair, Linda Huet-Clayton – Board Member, Susan Sama – Board Member, Bill Murphy – Health Director, Patty Moran – Health Nurse, Bethany Hadvab – Social Worker, Beth Porter – Health Admin. Elly Edmunds – SW Intern, Kay Bell – Comm on Disabilities, Janie Dretler – Select Board, Jen Roberts – Select Board, Maia Proujansky-Bell – Resident, Stephanie Kuster - Resident

Meeting called to order at 4:00 PM

Public Comment:

Maia Proujansky-Bell: Disparity between CDC guidelines and MDPH guidelines on mask wearing. How do students, who are not vaccinated, feel safe in the school environment? It was explained that transmission is low in the schools. Sama supported Ms. Proujansky's concerns. Also, discussed was the stigma associated with those who wear masks. The majority of students are not wearing masks on school premises. How will fall impact face covering mandates? COVID Numbers will dictate how we proceed in the fall and winter months. The science and data will determine actions.

Kay Bell: Concerned that 3 feet of distancing and no mask wearing during recess will render contact tracing ineffective. Carol Bradford noted that kids playing outside in the playground rarely stand in one place long enough to satisfy the other requirement of 15 minutes of close exposure. Carol Bradford also explained that pool testing is being conducted. Susan Sama noted that low positivity rates, lower risk.

Patty Moran – Public Health Nurse Update:

COVID Cases: Only 4 new cases have been reported in the past 2 weeks.

Vaccinations: Vaccines are impacting lower rates of COVID positivity. Once parents were vaccinated there was a sharp decrease in school positives.

Vaccines: for 12 – 18 year olds: The School Superintendents are working with Osco Drug, assigned through a State program, to vaccinate eligible students. The Health Department will supply staff and support. Currently Pfizer is the only vaccine approved by the FDA for this age group.

State Face Covering Mandate to be lifted 5/29/21: There is confusion as to where and when masks and face coverings are needed. Rescinding the Sudbury Face Covering Order will help to alleviate some confusion.

VOTE: Motion to rescind Sudbury April 2020 Face Covering Mandate in order to align Sudbury with the state MDPH guidelines. Motion made by Susan Sama. Motion seconded by Carol Bradford. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Public Health State of Emergency: The Select Board will vote to rescind the PH State of Emergency tonight (5/25/21) at the Select Board meeting (7:30). Mr. Murphy advises that the Board of Health Chair and members vote in alignment with the Select Board to rescind the State of Emergency.

Keeping some Allowances in Place: Susan Sama would like to see outdoor dining to stay in place, giving restaurants more seating capacity and to give diners options. Linda Huet-Clayton agreed that it would be advantageous to all to allow outdoor dining.

Sudbury Board of Health

Virtual Meeting 5/25/2021

Public Health Excellence Grant: The Grant went to the Town Manager and to Town Council. A response is required by June 4th for the Grant to move forward. Bill Murphy will follow up on the status of the response.

Bethany Hadvab – Social Worker Update:

Intern Introduction: Ally Edmunds was introduced and background presented to the board and attendees.

Social Equity and Justice: Finding the Health Department's role and locating resources to educate and understand how to move forward with this complex issue and task. Bethany has been attending a forum that has supplied its attendees with a questionnaire for Boards of Health to work with. This will aid health professionals in getting a better understanding of the problem and seeing a clearer way forward. Bethany is reaching out to organizations that are knowledgeable and considered experts on the matter.

Bill Murphy – Health Director Update:

Sudbury Crossing: MassDEP identified technical deficiencies in the design which were addressed by the engineers and will be presented to the Board of Health at an unspecified date.

Sudbury Resident: Stephanie Kuster – 245 Raymond Rd. who is an abutter to the Sudbury Crossing project expressed concerns that with the expansion of the leaching fields, which would be closer to her property line, that the effluent would seep into her property. Ms. Kuster noted that in the past when there has been a wet season there tends to be pooling of water in the proposed expansion area. Mr. Murphy asked Ms. Kuster to put her concerns in writing in order to address these issues prior to the meeting with the developers.

29 Stone Rd. Public Hearing Notice: Due to safety concerns, the dwelling at 29 Stone Rd is being condemned. A hearing will be held June 8th 4:00 PM at the next Board of Health Meeting. The notice will be posted in the MetroWest newspaper on May 26th, 27th and 28th. Town Counsel will attend the next meeting for the hearing to advise the Board. The process of condemning this property began pre-COVID and will now be addressed. A hazmat team and animal trappers must be contracted to safely secure the property.

Mosquitos and EEE: Gov Baker sent out a process for communities “opt out” from emergency State aerial spraying. Many farming communities are choosing to “opt out” of the State response. This is separate from East Middlesex Mosquito Control spraying contracted by the town. Mr. Murphy would like the Board to hold an annual agenda item to discuss. The issue should be evaluated and assessed annually and discussed with the Select Board after input from the community.

This year's mosquito numbers have been low. Drought periods help to mitigate the mosquito population. Concerning species for EEE and WNV transmission will be out in late summer, early fall. Testing will be watched closely and reported to the public.

Sudbury Board of Health

Virtual Meeting 5/25/2021

Bill Murphy – Health Director Update Continued:

Vacation: The Town Manager has mandated that all unused FY21 vacation time must be used by July 1st. Mr. Murphy will be on vacation from June 14th, thru June 24th. Bob Landry, Contracted Health Inspector, will be available for coverage.

VOTE: To approve April 20th and May 4th Board of Health Meeting Minutes as edited. Motion to approve made by Susan Sama, seconded by Linda Huet-Clayton. Motion approved 3-0-0.

Other:

Hiring Full Time Health Inspector: A viable candidate has been scheduled for a second interview.

Meetings in Person: The Select Board will vote tonight to begin holding in-person meetings.

Next meeting June 8th – Public Hearing 29 Stone Rd.

Summer Meetings: July 13th and August 24th.

Meeting adjourned at 5:02.