

Sudbury Board of Health

Virtual Meeting August 10, 2021

Attendees: Carol Braford – BoH Chair, Linda Huet-Clayton – BoH Member, Susan Sama – BoH Member, Bill Murphy – Health Director, Bethany Hadvab – Social Worker, Robert Lazo – Health Inspector, Beth Porter – Health Admin, Bella Wong – LSRHS Superintendent, Brad Crozier – SPS Superintendent, Jen Roberts – Select Board, Janie Dretler – Select Board, Joe Henderson – Horsley and Witten, Tony Haslinger – Sudbury Crossing, Pio Lombardi – Sudbury Crossing, Mike Schmitt – Sudbury Crossing, Elaine Toranto – Resident, Haley Bush, Jennie Brannen, Lauri Eliason, Silvia Nersessian – Resident, Stephanie Kuster – Residents, Karen Guderian, Cathy Peterson, Maureen Carty

4:00 – Meeting called to order

Newly Hired Health Inspector: Robert Lazo New Health Inspector started August 2, 2021. He is a recent graduate of UNH and majored in Environmental Science. Robert has started with obtaining on-line certifications and training in the field.

Schools Re-Opening This Fall

Brad Crozier – Sudbury Public Schools Superintendent K – 8:

Sudbury SPS School Committee is reviewing Face Covering Policy for the upcoming school year. Mr. Crozier reviewed CDC, MDPH and DESE guidelines. He consulted with Mr. Murphy to formulate a COVID policy for the Fall. As the school year progresses the Face Covering Policy will be re-evaluated. Brad Crozier would like to start the school year with policies the way they were at the end of last year. Policies can move, evolve or be rescinded depending on progression of the virus.

Bella Wong – Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School Superintendent

School Committee Meetings on 8/19 and 8/26 to discuss reopening policies. Bella will recommend to start the school year with mandatory indoor masking (regardless of vaccination status) with mask breaks. The rationale behind this recommendation would be 1. Family members who are not vaccinated in student households, 2. Break thru cases of vaccinated individuals are on the rise 3. Repercussions of infection on large scales. Bella and School Committee will continue to evaluate status of COVID infections during the school year. Limited random pool testing will be conducted.

Indoor Athletics and Performing Arts programs – Bella Wong and Brad Crozier have not worked out the logistics as to how the indoor performing arts and athletic programs will be conducted. There will be updates as plans progress. Brad Crozier had band practice outdoors last school year.

Carol Bradford is assured by the fact that both superintendents are taking a similar approach to re-opening.

Bill Murphy noted that residents have been contacting the Health Department with opinions on both sides of the masking policy. Last year, the schools made appropriate and sound decisions based on data and science. Some differences that will change approach to contact tracing will be the 3 feet of social distancing, which will present challenges with contact tracing.

No public comment on school presentation.

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COVID Updates:

MDPH: has no plans to change COVID guidance. Municipalities have started instating local mandates on masking as they see infections rise in their communities. Mr. Murphy asked the Board if they are comfortable with the CDC and MDPH advisories? The Board feels that many people are voluntarily wearing masks when indoors (which helps with mitigation). Linda Clayton-Huet is concerned with a-symptomatic people. Susan Sama suggested putting out more information on promoting mask wearing and the benefits. Mr. Murphy suggested that the Board put out a Mask Wearing Advisory. That can be distributed to Sudbury food establishments and businesses.

Sudbury Crossing:

Peer Review: The Board voted at the July 8th meeting to have a peer review of the engineered plans of the Sudbury Crossing proposed septic system and expansion. The system is a relatively new technology that the Health Director requested support to have an engineering review. Horsley and Witten was hired on the Board's behalf to present findings to the Board.

Joe Henderson Horsely and Witten: A summary was submitted on August 3rd for review. Most of the issues that were revealed thru the Peer Review were resolved. There are two points that need to be addressed by the Sudbury Crossing team: 1. Groundwater mounding and the effect on the design and 2. seasonal high groundwater

Pio Lombardi: responded to the ground water and mounding. Ground water was measured during peak seasons with historical highs. Analysis showed that the design took into consideration 8 times the average flow that the system will normally accommodate. The drain field will also be 2 times its current size. Mounding will be spread over a larger area with less of a peak. This will cause less pooling by creating more absorption.

Issues that were addressed were the modeling (soil that is stained due high ground water). Pio Lombardi said that the modeling that is on site, is a result of extremely high ground water that occurred some years ago. The applicant will be reducing nitrogen by 85% with negligible effects on the groundwater table and treatment.

Aquifer protection regulation: The current regulations require a 6 ft separation from soil absorption system bottom to groundwater where 5 ft is required by Title 5. Bill Murphy said that keeping the septic 6 feet above water table, causes more fill, higher grades and more run off problem. It could also increase tree loss. This variance has been issued on other properties and in most cases must be issued. Mr. Murphy is working on new regulations and is proposing eliminating that regulation.

Public Comment: Stephanie Kuster 245 Raymond Rd Resident: By raising the site 1 foot of separation to accommodate seasonal water, what does that do to the site? The Planning Board has approved vegetation to be planted at the site and that should satisfy seasonal water runoff. Any sloping that would move water toward abutters property lines will be mitigated with stable reinforced soil (this soil has preventative erosion properties).

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Sudbury Crossing Continued:

Stephanie would like to see vegetation planted along the property line to prevent erosion. Tony Haslinger said that the plan has 5 trees that will be planted at the base of the mound. In addition to the 5 trees there will be arborvitaes relocated from another location on the property to that location.

Bill Murphy wants the grading plan to clearly specify surface water be relocated away from the abutting property. Pio Lombardi stated that the formation of the mound is dictated by the footprint of the property. By spreading out the footprint you negate the efficiency of the design. There is not enough land to keep setbacks and regulations completely within current design.

VOTE: Carol Bradford Motioned to continue discussion of Sudbury Crossing at the August 24th Board of Health Meeting. Susan Sama seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Bill Murphy Health Department Updates:

Rehiring of Nursing staff: Bill Murphy would like to be proactive and be prepared for the fall. Until 2 months ago, the Health Dept. had 2 full time nurses and 5 part-time nurses to contact trace. Going into the fall season we now only have 1 full-time nurse and 2 part-time nurses. Bill Murphy has approached town management to rehire nurses to start in the fall. Some training and certifications will need to be completed prior to being ready. 2 of the 3 part time nurses are able to come back. Funding will come from grants and possibly ARPA funds that were given to the town.

Contact Tracing: The Community Tracing Collaborative is now rehiring people to cover for the fall season. It is unsure how contact tracing will look this fall. The CTC may be used more this time around.

Pool Testing: Linda Huet-Clayton inquired if the nursing staff can help with pool testing in the schools. Carol Bradford is unsure how testing will be conducted in the fall. DESE is looking into options for the schools.

Break Thru Infections and COVID Mutations: Huet Clayton and Sama are concerned with breakthrough infections in residents who have been fully vaccinated and with the increasingly virulent COVID mutations.

Mosquito Control: Due to one of the wettest summers on record, the mosquito population has increased. There has been WNV (West Nile Virus) detected in samples collected from Belmont, Watertown and Boston. Sudbury, at present, remains clear of EEE and WNV. Mr. Murphy maintains contact with East Middlesex Mosquito Control to keep abreast of any updates or news. Linda Huet-Clayton stated that the nuisance of an increased population of non-infected mosquitos not be combatted with over spraying.

Flu/COVID Clinics: The state has adopted a new software platform (Color) to schedule and track vaccinations(clinics) and to report vaccine inventory. There will be a learning curve. The Health Department is planning on conducting 2 to 3 Flu Clinics this coming fall using this new software.

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Bethany Hadvab – Social Worker Update:

Two Grants applied for and accepted:

Metro West Health Foundation: The **First Grant** will pay for interns. There has been a huge influx of cases coming into the social workers office and this grant will help to pay for the additional time that will be needed to get residents required assistance.

MetroWest Health Foundation **Second grant** will add 4 additional hours per week for our Contracted Senior Outreach Worker Mitch Sanborn and computer equipment support for interns.

SW Office Location: Because the new health inspector has started his position at the Health Department, Bethany and her interns moved to the Library 3 days per week. The Health Department has located the Health Inspector in Bethany's old office at the DPW building. Health Office space will be redesigned to accommodate all employees and interns in one location. More to come.

Meeting adjourned at 5:29 PM.