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Inspection Services
41 Elm Street

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE

February 11, 2021 Board of Health Meeting 6:00 pm

AS VOTED
BY BOH
3-11-2021
AR

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, § 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Southbridge Board of Health will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the Town of Southbridge website, at <https://www.ci.southbridge.ma.us/>. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to watch the meeting may do so in the following manner; as usual, via cable access, TV Charter Spectrum channel 192.

No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Town of Southbridge website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive records of proceedings as soon as possible after the meetings.

Agenda #1- Open Meeting

Agenda #2- Roll Call

Elizabeth Stephens
Roland LaRochele
Nicole Duffey
Anthony Postale

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
2021 MAR 12 AM 8:07
TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE
MASSACHUSETTS

Agenda #3- Accept Meeting Minutes

- a. Special Meeting-January 7, 2021- Motion is made by R. Larochele to accept meeting minutes as amended. Motion is 2nd by A. Postale.

Roll Call:

E. Stephens-yes
N. Duffey-yes
A. Postale-yes
R. LaRochele-yes

Motion passes unanimously.

- b. January 14, 2021- For housekeeping purposes, R. LaRochele mentions page 6 should read "anything" else and not "any" else. Correction is inserted handwritten. Motion is made by A. Postale to accept meeting minutes of January 14, 2021. Motion is 2nd by R. LaRochele.

Roll Call:

N. Duffey-yes
A. Postale-yes
R. LaRochele-yes
E. Stephens-yes

Motion passes unanimously.

Agenda #4- Citizens Forum- Maureen Doyle questions the status on the Plastic Bag Ban because while at Big Bunny it was noticed there were paper bags at the registers however, didn't look around and was wondering.

E. Stephens reports we are back to business as usual and there is no one using plastic bags in town. At the previous meeting, Mr. Cournoyer reported they now have different paper bags for the self-service check out. This has worked better for their situation.

Agenda #5- COVID-19

a. Update- A. Pelletier reports the State of Massachusetts went back to 40% occupancies over the 25%. They had done a special move post-Christmas to adjust the spike and bring increased occupancy to many businesses. Businesses are back to 40% occupancy or eight people per one thousand square feet.

Also, Charlie Baker has recently announced at Massachusetts vaccination sites and not a private site, a caregiver who brings in a 75-year-old or older, can also get the shot. Harrington site in Southbridge has opted NOT to entertain this. They are not considered a Mass. site.

A. Pelletier reports 180 positive cases over the last 14 days, out of 1800 tests, this is a 9.4% positivity rate.

In addition, A. Pelletier informs the Board he has asked R. LaRoche to act as distribution coordinator. Mr. LaRoche has a strong background in emergency response and knows how to deal with developing situations. Mr. LaRoche will be stepping in to coordinate any public health and or Harrington issues that may arise at the existing clinic, find alternative means of getting the vaccine to individuals and coordinate efforts with bigger populations such as the Sbdge Housing Authority.

E. Stephens questions if there is any information from the pharmacy's, if and when they are going to start in town. A. Pelletier states to his knowledge CVS Pharmacy in Southbridge is not planning to do vaccines and at this time has not reached out to Walgreens. CVS did complete inoculations at Sbdge Rehab. A. Pelletier will investigate if we can get CVS to inoculate other venues such as Sbdge Housing and or the Theresa Ave area.

A. Pelletier reports currently the clinic is running 180-250 vaccines a day however, they have had spikes up to 400 per day. The goal tomorrow is to press up to 500 vaccines per day and maintain this.

R. LaRoche publicly announces KUDOS to the Rubicon Team. This is a group of veterans who volunteer their time and services for any kind of disasters and or emergency situations. They are assisting with traffic control as well as assisting folks in and out of the facility. R. LaRoche announces there will be a video recording of the vaccination site with cable access that can be publicized to show what to expect during the process and the flow of the site.

A. Pelletier reports thus far the clinic has done around 6000 total vaccine doses. The site a regional site. 12% of these doses went to Southbridge residents.

On January 29th, Governor Baker announced 75 years old and over to be vaccinated. With ridiculous assistance from the Clerk's office, Pat Haddock from the Community Center and

staff we quickly got a registration program up and running. There will be a reverse 911 call on the system tonight announcing vaccinations for 75 years old and over.

Councilor Steeves inquires if there would be any legal way to reach out to people who are shut in or maybe don't have transportation to any of these facilities. R. LaRoche states he is working on compiling a list of those who are completely homebound with the assistance of Kathy from Meals on Wheels. R. LaRoche suggests to Councilor Steeves provide in writing, a little spiel for citizens to register for the EverBridge (Community Alert System). With the EverBridge you can add any special conditions which you may have and this will assist with getting the information out.

b. Food Program for Municipalities- A. Pelletier reports some towns have identified a need for a Food Program for those in quarantine. The State has put forth a couple of programs to accommodate this either making food boxes or provide gift cards for individuals in quarantine. A. Pelletier states he has reached out to member N. Duffey for any interest in investigating this as she has frequently expressed concerns on the social and psychological end of things.

N. Duffey states she has been looking into this and from experience believes those already in the system tend to be taken care of and those who are not in the system are the ones falling thru the cracks. They are kind of invisible.

N. Duffey came across a family in need and contacted Buying Friends and Family (non-profit organization) out of Spencer and within two hours was able to deliver food to the family. There is no referral and it is not connected to any duties or anything. He has delivered to 100 families so far. They shop for food staples, they deliver and that's it. N. Duffey states she would like to be a liaison with it and look into other programs.

A. Pelletier states he can ask the CTC (Contact Tracing Center) to notify him when there is someone who wants to get on some sort of food program and forward the information to N. Duffey.

Agenda #6- New Business

a. Discuss proposed Solid Waste Regulations- R. LaRoche states for house keeping purposes and because the old solid waste regs did not reflect on the town issued containers and or cost for replacement, we had to update the Solid Waste Regulations. R. LaRoche presented proposed Solid Waste Regulations for review and discussion.

Following discussion, A. Pelletier suggested he incorporate the board members comments into a final proposed draft for board health review at the next monthly meeting.

Agenda #7- Old Business

a. Blight- 718 Main St- A. Pelletier states at the last Board of Health meeting the board voted to allow Mr. Hunter Foote two weeks in order to bring it into compliance with the State Sanitary Code or upon failure of that, A. Pelletier was authorized to Declare it Unfit for Human

Habitation based on boards vote. A. Pelletier reports Mr. Foote failed to bring it into compliance therefore, on Thursday an order was issued declaring 718 Main St Unfit for Human Habitation. 718 Main St remains vacant.

Note: A. Pelletier reports 66 Central St went into foreclosure, auctioned off and purchased. New owner purchased both 66 and 70 Central St. Open communication between A. Pelletier and new owner continue.

Idlewood St- A. Pelletier reports he and the Building Inspector spoke with owner extensively regarding getting dumpsters and what was needed to get the property cleaned up. She was informed the Town would be speaking with the Town's Attorney to get this property into court. She was ordered on paper to allow access under Chapter 105 CMR 400. Work continues with Attorney Caprera and the court system. She is thinking about accepting assistance if needed.

Vienna- A. Pelletier states the owner's intent is to turn this property into a 5 unit apartment building. The owner has informed us he will have a machine on site next week to start cutting trees and pulling stumps. He will be applying for a permit for the exterior at the end of the week. If this does not happen, we will begin registering the property as Blighted. R. LaRoche expressed concerns more on the boarding and securing rather than removal of the stumps.

Agenda #8- Chairman Announcements- None

Agenda #9- Health Director Announcements- A. Pelletier announces the department will be receiving compost bins and rain barrels at a minimal cost through a curbside grant. In addition, interviews have begun for the Inspectors position that was vacated in August. The Council and Subcommittees were supportive of this. Hopefully this position will be filled in the next couple of weeks.

Agenda #10- Board Members Announcements-

A. R. LaRoche- None

B. N. Duffey- Expressed concerns on the mental health crisis particularly within the teens with resources being stretched, the phone numbers 211 it is taking longer to get back to people. N. Duffey voiced interest in creating a mentoring program as mentoring is huge especially now that the kids have less places to go to hang out or just to get away. In addition, N. Duffey states with the remote learning this has added to the frustration as suicide rate is up. With a Rec Department maybe create a mentoring program.

R. LaRoche states the town does not have a Recreational Director however, Pat Haddock has shared some of the duties. R. LaRoche suggests reaching out to the school system/administration for guidance rather than the counselors who are overburdened.

A. Pelletier states this topic would be ideal if sponsored by the Board of Health. The Department has some funding for BOH advertising opportunities/activities. A. Pelletier agrees

the mental health issues belongs within the schools however, we can co-sponsor and pay for some of the advertising to get the word out there.

C. A. Postale- Offers the Italian Clubs assistance at the vaccination site.

Agenda #11- Schedule Next Meeting- March 11, 2021 @ 6:00pm

Agenda #12- Adjournment- Motion to adjourn made by R. LaRochelle; 2nd by N. Duffey:

Roll Call:

E. Stephens-yes

R. LaRochelle-yes

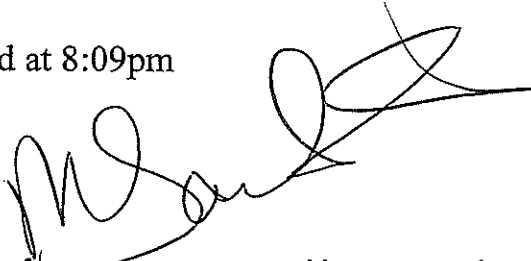
A. Postale-yes

N. Duffey-yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:09pm

Recording Clerk

M. Santos



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