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Approved
Per Vote of
The BOH 4/15/2021
[Signature]

Inspection Services
41 Elm Street

TOWN OF SOUTHBIDGE

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

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—6:13pm

Agenda #2- Roll Call-

Elizabeth Stephens-Excused
Roland LaRochelle
Nicole Duffey
Anthony Postale

Agenda #3- Accept Meeting Minutes

- a. February 11, 2021- Motion made to accept meeting minutes as written by A. Postale; Motionnd by N. Duffey-
Roll Call
R. LaRochelle-yes
A. Postale-yes
N. Duffey-yes
E. Stephens-Excused

Motion passes unanimously of those present 3-1 Excused (E.S.)

Agenda #4- Citizens Forum- No citizens present

Agenda #5- COVID-19

- a. Update- A. Pelletier reports there were 10 cases today; closed 8 cases which totals 1648 total cases since the onset with 72 current active cases. The official count from the State will not be available until tomorrow; however, A. Pelletier reports he estimates in the last 14 days there were 85 positive cases with 1825 tests. This is a 4.6 positive rate from last week. A. Pelletier predicts the Town will be in its 2nd week in the yellow. With the 2nd week in yellow, the Town may begin to open public meeting with the understanding of Order #63 which limits gathering to 10 people thus limiting citizens attendance.
A. Pelletier reports based on current trends, Governor Baker is planning on opening Phase IV; Step 1 on March 22nd. We await guidance from Governor Baker.

RECEIVED
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2021 APR 16 AM 8:53
TOWN OF SOUTHBIDGE
MASSACHUSETTS

A. Pelletier states we have had clusters at the Rehab Center, businesses and household members. However, as the vaccine becomes more and more available, less clusters will be noticeable.

The travel order that allows traveling to and from Massachusetts without quarantining are Hawaii, Missouri, Washington State, Oregon and Puerto Rico.

A. Pelletier reports he has been in discussion with Town Manager regarding re-opening the Town Hall to the public. This is due to the Governor interested in opening up the State AND if we continue in the yellow. A. Pelletier seeks the Boards input before a final advisory to the Manager.

A. Pelletier reports the travel order has been slightly amended; if you have had a vaccine greater than 14 days or less than 90 days you can travel into the State without quarantining. This is ONLY valid if a shot card is available. A shot card is provided after administering the vaccine.

Education staff can begin to register for the vaccine as of today. This includes administration, custodial and all other school employees. The clinic has agreed to reserve 10 weekends to vaccinate education staff. A dedicated link has been provided to education staff to register for the J&J vaccine. It has been estimated 2700-3000 education staff will need to be vaccinated. This includes Shepard Hill and Tantasqua. In addition, the State is opening up sites throughout devoted for teachers.

Lastly, A. Pelletier states seniors over 75 and some over 65 years of age were able to secure appointments for the vaccine with assistance from the Town Clerk, Maddie and staff. Essentially, the Town has been assisting those who are not computer literate and seeks the boards thoughts on continuing to use resources to assist those under the age of 65.

R. LaRoche reports he has received guidance from the State regarding Home Bound residents. This consists of screening individuals using a list of questions provided by the State to determine eligibility. It is recommended to administer the J&J (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine to those individuals who qualify as home bound to avoid going back a 2nd time. This process requires a logistical approach and communication from all parties.

Discussion:

Senior member, T. Postale states as long as the Town continues in the yellow, the Town Hall should open.

N. Duffey agrees, if all goes well and if it is doable. The Town Hall should open to the public.

Vice Chair, LaRoche also, agrees. The number of cases in town and the States numbers are declining.

R. LaRoche entertains a motion that the Board recommends opening the Town Hall to the public effective March 22nd.

Motion made by A. Postale; contingent upon Governor Bakers review on March 22nd, the Town Hall can open up to the public. No 2nd motion made.

Discussion:

A. Postale withdraws original motion.

New motion made by A. Postale: on March 22nd to open the Town Hall to the public as long as Southbridge is trending in the right direction and remains in the yellow. Motion is 2nd by N. Duffey:

Roll Call:

N. Duffey-yes

A. Postale-yes

R. LaRoche-yes

E. Stephens-Excused

Discussion:

R. LaRoche questions if the towns allotted registration slots are not filled, we will lose these slots and the only avenue the residents will have is the States link. A. Pelletier states we are not looking into losing any available slots as we will provide the link to any recipients who call into the office for an appointment and or provide any assistance on registration if necessary.

R. LaRoche states he personally does not want to get out of the registration business.

A. Postale agrees, the Town should continue with the registration.

N. Duffey concurs with other Board members. Continue the registration and provide the link.

b. Food Program for Municipalities- A. Pelletier defers to N. Duffey for update. N. Duffey reports she has no update as she was waiting to hear from the office regarding anyone in need of assistance.

Note: A. Pelletier reports a rumor recently heard of the Community Tracing Collaborative (CTC) Center will be termed sometime in June and the Board will need to begin setting up a plan to be prepared on contract tracing.

Agenda #6- New Business

a. Recycling Dividends Program (RDP) Grant- A. Pelletier reports the RDP grant is a points grant for programs that the Town is currently active on. Council accepted the \$11,000 grant. These monies are to be used to support our programs and additional programs such as an electronics takeback day.

b. Mental Health Crisis- A. Pelletier defers to member, N. Duffey. Ms. Duffey shares concerns with the current mental health crisis, specifically with kids being disconnected as well as the length of time to secure an appointment. N. Duffey states the Town could benefit by creating a committee to alleviate the loneliness, connection and belonging. It is suggested by N. Duffey that the best route for this would be to extend an invitation to teachers, leaders in our community and YMCA staff to collaborate/communicate in identifying a child in need. Ideally, she would like to have representation from all different entities participate in this committee and is looking for the Boards support.

R. LaRoche expresses full support. Commending N. Duffey for volunteering.

A. Postale concurs, full support.

Agenda #7- Old Business

a. Blight- 718 Main St- A. Pelletier reports no Board of Health concerns however, possible zoning issues due to the owner claiming the property as a "sober" house.

318 Main St- Report from A. Pelletier: this is the same owner of 718 Main St who has moved his tenant into 318 Main St however, has no exterior window. A. Pelletier reached out to owner, who has indicated he would be pulling a building permit application this week to work on an exterior window.

495 South St- This is a vacant house, open to the weather. Several Orders to Correct were prepared and mailed to owner to either repair or remove it. Court papers are currently being prepared because the owner has been unresponsive. We will be asking the court to order the owner to demolished or order the Town to demolish. This particular case will be used to get back into the court process due to the new norm.

Idlewood St- A. Pelletier and the Building Inspector continue to be in communication with the property owner however, she continues to deny access. We will use 495 South St as an example to get into the court system then pursue this case.

Vienna- A. Pelletier reports several conversations with the owner. He has submitted a building permit application however, due to monies owed to the Town, the application has been denied. This needs to be settled with the Town as a priority.

215 Hamilton St- This property was once eligible for a receivership however; a receiver was not appointed. An Order to Correct specifically to remove the structure has be prepared and mailed to the bank.

Thomas St- Specifically, 36 Thomas St is a small, single family home. This property and the adjacent land is being used as a dumping ground. Unfortunately, this property is one the Town will be using tax payers' monies to clean up the blight and remove the structure. This property will also be moving forward into the court system.

- b. Discuss proposed Solid Waste Regulations- Copy of the draft proposed Solid Waste Regulations provided. Brief discussion on amendments. A. Pelletier will be editing the draft Solid Waste Regulations and re-submit for review by the Board. This will include the Board of Health fee schedule to add the fees owed for toters and in final, schedule a public hearing possibly for May.

Agenda #8- Chairman Announcements- None

Agenda #9- Health Director Announcements-

- a. A. Pelletier reports the final capping of the top. A. Smith has been attending the construction meeting accordingly.
- b. Household Hazardous Waste Day scheduled for March 27th from 9-1. All regulated waste will be accepted. Construction and Demolition debris will be accepted at the Oxford Transfer Station.
- c. Rain Barrels are available to the public for \$25. Arrangements for delivery can be arranged if requested.
- d. Compost bins will be arriving tomorrow. This is the 2nd round of compost bins becoming available to the public at \$25 each.
- e. Through the recycling grant we are seeking to fill 4 part-time positions to work 3-4 hours a day, every other week to monitor our recycling program. Additional information can be found on the Town's website.

Agenda #10- Board Members Announcements-

- a. A. Postale- No announcement
- b. N.Duffey- No announcement
- c. R. LaRochelle- Concerns with 489 Dennison Drive and multiple toters including additional bags on the ground which Casella continues to pick up. A. Pelletier will discuss this with the curbside monitor.

Agenda #11- Schedule Next Meeting- April 15, 2021 at 6:00

Agenda #12- Adjournment

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