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Inspection Services  
41 Elm Street

## TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE

April 15, 2021 Board of Health Meeting 6:00 pm

Public Hearing: 6:15 pm Request for septic variance at 3 Grandview Drive

*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- 6:05pm

Agenda #2- Roll Call

E. Stephens  
R. LaRochelle  
N. Duffey  
A Postale- Excused

*Approved by  
Vote of BOH  
5-13-2021  
A. Pelletier*

Agenda #3- Accept Meeting Minutes

a. March 11, 2021- Motion to accept meeting minutes made by R. LaRochelle; 2<sup>nd</sup> by N. Duffey:  
Roll Call  
E. Stephens-Abstain  
N. Duffey-yes  
R. LaRochelle-yes

RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
2021 MAY 14 AM 8:12  
TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE  
MASSACHUSETTS

Motion passes with a 2-1 vote Stephens abstain. A. Postale excused.

Agenda #4- Citizens Forum-No citizens present

Agenda #5- COVID-19

a. Update-A. Pelletier states the J&J vaccine has caused some blood clots in 7 people out of the 6 million doses administered. It appears to be affecting females between the age of 18-40 years old. Southbridge update: as of yesterday, there were 790 positive cases with 61 active cases. A report from the state indicates Southbridge is at 3,080 total vaccines. This report did not report on the Hispanic population however, 1500 of the Hispanic population were in fact vaccinated. Member Duffey questions if Southbridge is in the yellow. A. Pelletier states Sbdge has been in the yellow for four weeks.

Report from R. LaRochelle: Clinic is open 7 days a week from 8am-2pm. On an average, the clinic is vaccinating 600 people daily. After communicating with approximately 26 potentially home bound individuals utilizing the states worksheet, R. LaRochelle had this number reduced to 11. 8 of which were

administered the J&J. Currently, the J&J vaccine is on hold. R. LaRochelle states this has become a logistical nightmare however, will continue to compile a minimum of 5 homebound individuals each week to administer the Pfizer vaccine.

Public Hearing: 6:15 pm Request for septic variance at 3 Grandview Drive

E. Stephens questions if there is any information for 3 Grandview Drive?

A. Pelletier apologized for not submitting documents before the meeting as the septic plans are too large and cannot be scanned to be emailed. In addition, Jason Dubois, the contractor did not have the plans electronically readily available for the board.

R. LaRochelle states he cannot make judgement with zero information on the requirements and request of this public hearing. He states a remote meeting is no excuse because the building has been open to the public and packets could have been made for the board to pick up for review prior to the meeting.

E. Stephens concurs with R. LaRochelle.

A. Pelletier states going forward whether virtual or regular meeting a physical packet will be prepared for the board to pick up. E. Stephens asks if A. Pelletier has the ability to determine approval on a variance or not?

A. Pelletier states he does not have the authority unless granted by the Board.

Motion is made by R. LaRochelle to close the public hearing with no action. 2<sup>nd</sup> by N. Duffey:

Roll Call

E. Stephens-yes

N. Duffey-yes

R. LaRochelle-yes

Motion passes unanimously 3-1; A. Postale excused. Public hearing closed at 6:25pm

b. Senior Prom- A. Pelletier states he has spoken with Karen Checka who has indicated the school is not planning on holding a prom this year.

N. Duffey explains she has heard the same thing and expressed concerns on the mental health crisis we are experiencing. Students and teenager need to connect especially for those graduates and if at all possible ask the schools to reconsider its decision.

A. Pelletier explains should the schools have a prom; the State regulation encourages schools to hold a prom after the closing of the schools to give the attending students time to get vaccinated and have a 14-day window. With that the schools felt this would irrelevant to hold a prom after the end of the year. Also, the regulations refer to the guidance on separation and social distancing, seating 6 feet apart. A. Pelletier states DESE guidance allows prom however, they do not encourage it or suggest it.

N. Duffey adds she feels it is worth a discussion and think about the seniors who did not attend their junior prom; aren't able to attend a senior prom. Again, would greatly appreciate it if the schools would reconsider.

E. Stephens reads verbatim a response from Dr. Villar. See attached. E. Stephens states she is more concerned with the graduation ceremony and not the prom.

c. Senior Graduation- A. Pelletier states the schools have under 100 seniors graduating this year. They are going to hold several outdoor graduation events with limited guests, social distancing and follow DESE's and DPH's plan and guidance.

#### Agenda #6 New Business-

a. Proposed community access refrigerator (the Bridge Fridge)- A. Pelletier explains through a Facebook page, the Bridge Fridge announced it is 24/7 access fridge for those who want to bring food to place in fridge or take food from this fridge. A. Pelletier explains the department efforts to track down the responsible parties were successful. As of today, the department received a plan excluding the location of the proposed fridge. A. Pelletier and Food Inspector briefly reviewed the proposed plan however, further review will be required.

Representative from Bridge Fridge, Ms. Carla Delacruz states the fridge will be located at outside RMG (Renaissance Medical Group) and explains grassroot, mutual aid initiative created to combat food insecurities and food waste with no questions asked. The fridges are organized, maintained and used by the community. Its intent is to provide a dignified way to access full nutritious food with no barriers. Ms. Delacruz states some of the items accepted will be produce, pantry staples, non-potential hazardous foods, pre-packaged foods etc.

E. Stephens questions why the Bridge Fridge ignored several requests to reach out to the Board of Health office?

Ms. Delacruz explains they did not recognize the Facebook page and assumed it was not a valid page. Ms. Delacruz expresses her apology.

A. Pelletier will arrange a meeting with Ms. Delacruz to further discuss the plan and proper licensing.

Ms. Julia Calfa states the Bridge Fridge has good intentions and going forward there will be open communication.

b. Municipal Opt-Out of Mosquito Spraying- A. Pelletier states last year the State included the Town in the mosquito fly over. Town Manager, Mr. McCall provided the information for the Board to review and respond with supporting or opted out of the mosquito spraying. A. Pelletier reminds the Board there were concerns last year with the fly over in regards to contamination to lakes, vegetation etc.

E. Stephens reads a request submitted by Councilor Marketti (see attached).

Discussion:

Consensus of the Board: the Town does not have a plan therefore; no public forum and no need to opt out.

#### Agenda #7- Old Business

a. Blight- 318 Main St- A. Pelletier explains the property owner has been issued several 21D tickets worth thousands of dollars and continues to be an issue. The courts have been closed to minor concerns however; these tickets have been filed utilizing the police department. We are currently awaiting a court hearing.

In addition, the tenant continues to reside at 318 Main St. We have communicated this to Atty Caprera and we now wait for Mr. Caprera to move forward to file this case.

Idlewood St- A. Pelletier shares several meetings with the owner have been denied access however, we have been attempting to get the owner to accept assistance from Elder Services. This is another case we will be working with Atty. Caprera.

Vienna- A. Pelletier provides update regarding the broken glass, windows and board/secure.

215 Hamilton St- The maintenance company hired by the bank reached out. They requested a month to sell the property. This window of opportunity granted otherwise building is to be demolished.

495 South St- under the authority of the Building Department. This property was ordered to be repaired or removed. 2<sup>nd</sup> court order to be filed with Mr. Caprera

36 Thomas St- A. Pelletier reports this is a small, single, one-bedroom home. This has become a dumping ground. Order to Correct sent to owner. If no response from owner, we will be covering the cost to clean it up.

63 River St- Department worked with new owner. Progress is being made with hopes to remove this property from the blight list.

116-118 River St- This property has been issued tickets several times. These tickets have been filed through the court system.

314 Hamilton St- A. Pelletier reports owner has passed away and an Order to the Estate of was prepared and mailed. We are also ordering to Board and Secure it.

236 Dennison Drive- This property is related to 314 Hamilton St and in the process of being foreclosed on. This property has also been a challenge due to the owner temporarily organizes the mess.

19 Crestwood Drive- Property owner has been cited with no activity. We will be involving the Attorney General on this property.

361 Worcester St- A. Pelletier reports this property continues to be a work in slow progress.

66 Central St- New owner has applied for a building permit to redo the rear property. Hopeful the new owners are successful and compliant.

b. Review of final proposed Solid Waste Regulations- A. Pelletier provided a draft proposed Solid Waste Regulations and the Final proposed Solid Waste Regulations. E. Stephens suggest to postpone this agenda item for the next monthly BOH meeting. Members concur to postpone and allow for review.

Agenda #8- Chairman Announcements- No announcements

Agenda #9- Health Director Announcements- A. Pelletier announces the department has ordered its 2<sup>nd</sup> round of Rain Barrels for \$25.00 per rain barrel.

In addition, A. Pelletier announces Beautify Southbridge for May 22, 2021 from 8:30am-Noon. The department will be set up at the Town Hall. Flyers have been prepared and we will be advertising it on the cable access, library, social media and other outlets. R. LaRochelle suggests providing the information to the school department.

Agenda #10- Board Members Announcements-

R. LaRochelle questions if communication to the Funeral Homes have been successful? Expresses concerns regarding proper COVID procedures not being followed may lead to possible outbreak.

A. Pelletier reports after the discussion, 1 phone call was attempted with no success however, will continue to reach out to all the funeral homes.

In addition, R. LaRochelle states Casella continues to pick up non-conforming totes throughout town and overflowing bags. Adds, he will continue to email and or reach out to for compliance.

N. Duffey- Shares at the Sturbridge Coffee Shop and at Alternative for Health in Sturbridge there is a food pantry available to Southbridge residents 24/7.

Agenda #11- Schedule Next Meeting- May 13, 2021 @ 6:00pm

Agenda #12- Adjournment- Motion to adjourn made by R. LaRochelle; 2<sup>nd</sup> by N. Duffey

Roll Call

E. Stephens- yes

R. LaRochelle-yes

N. Duffey-yes

Motion passes 3-1; A. Postale excused. Meeting closed at 8:14pm

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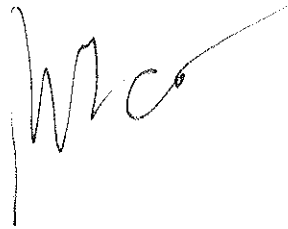
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. C.', is located in the lower right quadrant of the page.



## Maritza Santos

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**From:** ELIZABETH Stephens <emcphail@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 16, 2021 9:32 AM  
**To:** Maritza Santos  
**Subject:** Fwd: BOH meeting 4-15-21

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** ELIZABETH Stephens <emcphail@me.com>  
**Date:** April 15, 2021 at 3:52:59 PM EDT  
**To:** Mike Marketti <mmarketti@southbridgemass.org>  
**Subject: Re: BOH meeting 4-15-21**

Absolutely!

- Beth

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 15, 2021, at 3:47 PM, Mike Marketti <mmarketti@southbridgemass.org> wrote:

Beth,

If you don't mind, go ahead and read it into the record and I will repeat my comments at the Council Meeting.

Thanks,

Councilor Marketti

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**From:** ELIZABETH Stephens <emcphail@me.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 15, 2021 3:38 PM  
**To:** Mike Marketti <mmarketti@southbridgemass.org>  
**Subject:** Re: BOH meeting 4-15-21

Good Afternoon Mr. Marketti,

Thank you for your interest in our meeting, I'm sorry you are unable to attend. This item is on the agenda for recommendation only, the Council is actually the deciding body regarding any change. That said, I'm more than happy to read your statement into the record, but know that you should still have the opportunity to openly speak on the matter at a council meeting. Thanks again for your comments.

Regards,

Beth Stephens  
Chair- Board of Health

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 15, 2021, at 1:23 PM, Mike Marketti  
<mmarketti@southbridgemass.org> wrote:

Ms. Stephens,

There is an agenda item on tonight's Board of Health meeting under New Business, "Municipal Opt-Out of Mosquito Spraying," which I would like an opportunity to speak to. Unfortunately, I can't attend the BOH meeting due to Gen Gov Budget meeting tonight.

I don't know if there is any planned action on that agenda tonight, but if there is, would it be possible to read my statement below into the record, please?

"Spraying for mosquitos is always a tradeoff between public health and safety and the collateral damage it does to the environment. If you don't want to take a chance on EEE, West Nile virus, and malaria, you spray. Is spraying harmful to lifeforms such as bees, aquatic and vegetable gardens and humans if inhaled? Usually, the State doesn't spray in such a way that humans inhale it. Spray at night when people are in bed. Don't spray in heavily populated areas, spray only in areas (water places) where mosquitos breed. Is there a risk to bees? Yes. Better they be at risk than people."

Thank you,

Councilor Marketti



## Maritza Santos

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**From:** Jeffrey Villar <jvillar@southbridgepublic.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 15, 2021 8:22 AM  
**To:** Maritza Santos  
**Cc:** ELIZABETH MCPHAIL; rol11elec@aol.com; Tony Postale; Nicole Duffey; Jay Dubois; The Bridge Community Fridge; Karin Checka; Margo Ferrick  
**Subject:** Re: FW:

Good Morning,

Thank you for forwarding the information about your meeting scheduled for this evening. Andy pointed out that the state guidance about Senior Prom and graduation is on the agenda. I will follow the guidance from DESE, which suggests the district DO NOT hold a prom. Additionally, we plan to follow the state guidance for graduation and any additional safety requirements suggested by you (The Southbridge Board of Health). Please advise if you intended to send this agenda to request that a representative of the school district attends the meeting or if you sent this information to keep us informed of your deliberations. I thank you for your continued hard work during these incredibly trying times.

Regards,

Jeffrey A. Villar, Ph.D.

Receiver / Superintendent

Southbridge Public Schools

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On Wed, Apr 14, 2021 at 3:07 PM Maritza Santos <[msantos@southbridgemass.org](mailto:msantos@southbridgemass.org)> wrote:

Greetings To You All,

We hope this email finds you well.

Please see the attached documents for the Board of Health meeting scheduled for Thursday April 15, 2021. The log in information can be found on the FINAL agenda. Should you have any questions feel free to make contact.

Thanks for your time and attention,

Best Regards,

Maritza

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**From:** Andrew Pelletier  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 14, 2021 2:47 PM  
**To:** Maritza Santos <[msantos@southbridgemass.org](mailto:msantos@southbridgemass.org)>  
**Subject:**

Andrew Pelletier  
Director of Inspection Services  
Southbridge, MA  
(508) 764-4252

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