

Telephone: 508-764-5412
Fax: 508-764-5407



Inspection Services
41 Elm Street

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE
February 16, 2023 BOH Meeting 6:00pm
Veteran's Room

Public Hearings: 6:05pm 41 Stony Brook Drive: Request for Trash Toter Fee Waiver

Agenda #1- Open Meeting- 6:06pm Chair announced an apology for the delay

Agenda #2- Roll Call

N. Duffey
A. Postale
D. Grabowski
P. Szugda
J. Quinones

Agenda #3- Accept Meeting Minutes

- a. January 19, 2023- Motion is made to accept by D. Grabowski; 2nd by N. Duffey-
Roll Call
P. Szugda-yes
D. Grabowski-yes
N. Duffey-yes
J. Quinones-yes
A. Postale- Abstain

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
2023 AUG 10 PM 7:40
TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE
MASSACHUSETTS

Motion passes 4-1 abstain (Postale). Meeting minutes accepted.

Agenda #4-Citizens Forum- No one present at this time.

Agenda #5- COVID Update

- a. Discuss current status and act on anything thereto- **Handouts provided to board members (see attached)**. Director Wasiuk states COVID rates have decreased and reads a statement in verbatim from, **Brianna Burnham**, Regional Epidemiologist (see attached).

Agenda #6-Old Business

- a. Blight Update- Director Wasiuk states most of the complaints are centered around rubbish and accumulations of rubbish in yard areas. Order to Correct notices are issued to property owners. These notices are effective thus having compliance. In addition, Wasiuk states mattresses are seen out; noting himself, Inspector Quinn and Hector (curbside enforcer) continue with inspections, enforcement and compliance as well as relying on the public to inform staff of the locations.
D. Wasiuk explains he believes further education and outreach regarding these mattresses may be necessary and announces "Anyone needing a mattress/box spring to be removed must contact CASELLA at 1-800-CASELLA for proper disposal".

Member Postale questions if there is a space on the Health Department page with this information?
Recording Clerk explains there is a dedicated link TITLED Trash and Recycling with all the necessary information.

Wasiuk

b. On-going discussion on community Mental Health needs- Chair Duffey mentions the presentation held at the library on assistance with housing went well with approximately 23 attendees. Another presentation will be scheduled in the future to continue getting the word out.

Chair opens up the 6:05pm Public Hearing at 6:17pm; 41 Stony Brook Drive Request for Trash Toter Fee Waiver

Chair requests update regarding locating the toter. Inspector Portalatin states the Curbside Enforcement Officer, Hector searched Stony Brook and Hilltop for the trash toter with the dedicated serial number and was unsuccessful. Also, the home owner was previously notified on the continuance of the public hearing this evening and unfortunately is not in attendance.

Member Grabowski states the owner waited two years to report it missing because he had no use for it and now is requesting a waiver because he has a use. Member Grabowski is NOT in favor of the waiver.

Motion NOT to waived the \$50.00 fee made by Member Grabowski; 2nd by J. Quinones;

Roll Call

A. Postale-yes

P. Szugda-yes

J. Quinones-yes

N. Duffey-yes

D. Grabowski-yes

Motion passes unanimously.

Public Hearing closed at 6:20pm

Agenda #7- Discuss the permit for Tobacco Product & Nicotine Delivery Devices that was issued in error (11 Pleasant Street) - To determine to approve or not. Chair explains it was brought to her attention there would be a smoking lounge in Town and when asked about it, the correct procedure did not take place because this is a new use. The Board needed to know about this to discuss and vote if necessary.

Member Postale questions the topic currently on the table and suggest clarification. Chair states the board will vote to approve it or not.

Counselor Daou states this permit has already been issued; requesting where in the Town By-law does it state it is illegal or NOT allowed? Where is the error? And if so, close the Eagles and close the Order of Redmen. Both of whom are smoking bars.

Chair explains this would go hand to hand with the next agenda item; possibly amending the smoking regulations. This permit should not have been issued without Director Wasiuk discussing this with the Board.

Director Wasiuk claims he disagrees. State the permit was not issued in error as he researched the current Regulations Restricting Youth Access to Tobacco and Nicotine Delivery Devices implemented in 2016 by previous members.

These local regulations DO NOT prohibit smoking bars or hookah bars. Local regulations state “no person shall smoke, use e-cigarettes or nicotine delivery devices in any municipal athletic park including municipal playgrounds. NO person shall smoke use e-cigarettes or any other nicotine delivery device within 15 feet of any municipal playground or any other playground within a municipal park”. Lastly, the regulations state “no person shall smoke in an area within 15 ft of an entrance way of any space designated by Mass General Law chapter 270 section 22 (smoking in public places).

D. Wasiuk states there is nothing concrete or written that would prohibit the issuance of a permit to sell tobacco and compares Westhampton’s and Montagues smoking regulations; clearly prohibiting smoking bars and hookah lounges. Reiterating the issuance of the permit is valid.

Counselor Daou informs the Board the State approves smoking bars and not the town. The smoking license has already been issued.

Chair Duffey explains the Board has the right to amend any regulations with reasonable concern. Most recently their was concerns with the Tobacco Alliance regarding Flavored Tobacco.

Counselor Steeves explains the Board has the right to amend regulations following a public hearing however, it would have to include all other smoking bars and not just one entity. Chair concurs.

Counselor Lazo states he is probusiness and although he does not smoke he was in favor of the 3 marijuana establishments solely for revenue purposes and believes people should have the option of going into a hookah lounge to smoke if they choose. Suggest the Board of Health allow the hookah bar. In addition, it would not be ideal to amend the towns smoking regulations.

Counselor Ryan expresses the attacks on adults wanting to use tobacco is ridiculous. As an adult and tobacco user, she would rather spend money in town than elsewhere. Sides with Director; as there is nothing in black and white prohibiting smoking in doors. It will not look good to change the regulations now. This is ethically questionable.

Chair Duffey clarifies the fact that this topic is on the table for discussion and to determine if the board wants to head in that direction they can. The point is, Mr. Wasiuk should have informed the board because of its new use. And again, this is why we have on the agenda discussing the process of issuing licenses.

Counselor Lazo explains the Health Director has interpreted the law. The law does not imply licenses need to come before the Board.

Dr. Wasiuk reads in verbatim an email sent to him by Chair Duffey proclaiming the license will need to be rescinded because it was issued in error.

Vice Chair Postale expresses some concerns regarding the discussion on hand.

Discussion continues:

Town Planner, Eric Rumsey provides information on Mass General Law 270 ss G2 and G3 regarding retail tobacco store, visible signage including posting and underage purchases. Mr. Rumsey’s interpretation is that a smoking bar or a tobacco which permits smoking on the premises is allowed so in the absence of bylaws within the town, they are allowed because the State allows them. In addition, Mr.

Rumsey questions if every other permit is signed by
different. Questions: where is the error?

Chair Duffey explains for guidance she contacted the Mass. Association of Health Board; one of which is an Attorney.

Mr. Rumsey claims the Mass Association of Health Boards is not a legislative body but an advisory body who provide information however, the State law is the State law and that is what the Town has to go by. Mr. Rumsey believes there was no error in the issuance of the tobacco license.

Discussion continues:

Motion is made by D. Grabowski to approve Director Wasiuk decision on the permit; 2nd by P. Szugda:

Roll Call
P. Szudga-yes
A. Postalte-yes
N. Duffey-yes
D. Grabowski-yes
J. Quinones-yes

Motion passes unanimously of all present.

Agenda #8- Discuss whether to amend current Regulations on Tobacco Use Including Restricting Youth Access on the prohibition of smoking bars. Chair Duffey announces to table the agenda item.

Motion to **table** agenda #8 is made by A. Postale; 2nd by Chair Duffey

Roll Call
D. Grabowski- yes
A. Postale-yes
J. Quinones-yes
P. Szugda-yes
N. Duffey-yes

Motion passes unanimously.

Agenda #9- Discuss the process of issuing permits to determine if this is to be amended- Chair Duffey explains this discussion is up due to the previous discussion. Asking the Food Inspector, on average how many permits come in to the office. Inspector's response is on average 5-10 permits are submitted literally days before their expiration dates.

Councilor Daou shares he believes the Board of Health has enough to deal with instead of babysitting all licenses and permits to be issued. The Director of Board of Health was hired for his field experience and knowledge to do the job.

Chair Duffey the Board would have liked to known of the smoking bar beforehand as the reserves the right.

Planner Rumsey shares at some point the Board has to trust the decision of the Director and possibly request a monthly report from the Director.

Discussion:

Motion to **table** agenda #9 made by A. Postale; 2nd by D. Grabowski:

Roll Call

J. Quinones-yes

D. Grabowski-yes

A. Postale-yes

N. Duffey-yes

P. Szugda-yes

Motion passes unanimously.

Agenda #10- Discuss input for usage of Opioid Funds- Director Wasiuk explains the State settled with pharmaceutical companies and there will be money allocated to prevention/treat addiction. Other Health Department have their opioid programs consisting of specialist in addiction. Mr. McCall has suggested a social worker be in place for the process to align with what is reasonable for the funding. This is only an idea for the Board to ponder.

Member Grabowski emotionally expresses a Social Worker is a good first step and not the only step. This worker will need to provide resources.

Member Quinones questions the specifics on the funding.

Director Wasiuk does not have any knowledge on the requirements and today is Mr. McCall's last day. This is only a preliminary discussion.

Discussion:

Mr. Wasiuk to obtain the requirements and submit to Board for review.

Motion to **table** agenda #10 made by J. Quinones; 2nd by P. Szugda:

Roll Call

A. Postale-yes

D. Grabowski-yes

P. Szugda-yes

N. Duffey-yes

J. Quinones-yes

Motion passes unanimously.

Agenda #11- Discuss ARPA funds project ie: homeless shelter- Director Wasiuk speaks of ARPA funds availability and suggests a homeless shelter as this would serve better for the Town. Director Wasiuk informs the board if there are any other suggestion for the use of the APRA funds, we will need to submit it for March 1st.

Member Szugda suggests inquiring at the local homeless shelter to see what it is they need or to see if we can supplement their needs to assist others.

Counselor Steeves explains the deadline of March 1st is to allow time for the March 9th agenda and as long as the Town has funds available, there will be other opportunities to request of APRA funds.

Discussion continues:

Any ideas for use of APRA funds to be shared amongst the Board and forwarded to Hannah from Town Managers Office. Next ARPA meeting scheduled for March 9th.

Agenda #12- Health Director's Announcement- Director Wasiuk thanks Board for a healthy discussion.

Agenda #13- Chairman Announcement- Chair will look into televised presentation held at the library. The library will hold a COVID clinic March 9th.

Agenda #14- Board Members Announcements-

- P. Szugda-no announcement
- D. Grabowski- no announcement
- A. Postale- expresses apology
- J. Quinones- no announcement

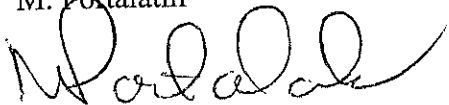
Agenda #15- Schedule Next Meeting- March 23, 2023 @ 6:00pm

Agenda #16- Adjournment- Motion to adjourn by D. Grabowski; 2nd by P. Szugda:

- Roll call
- D. Grabowski-yes
- A. Postale-yes
- N. Duffey-yes
- J. Quinones- yes
- P. Szugda-yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

Recording Clerk,
M. Portalatin





Town of
SOUTHBIDGE
Massachusetts

Public Health Department

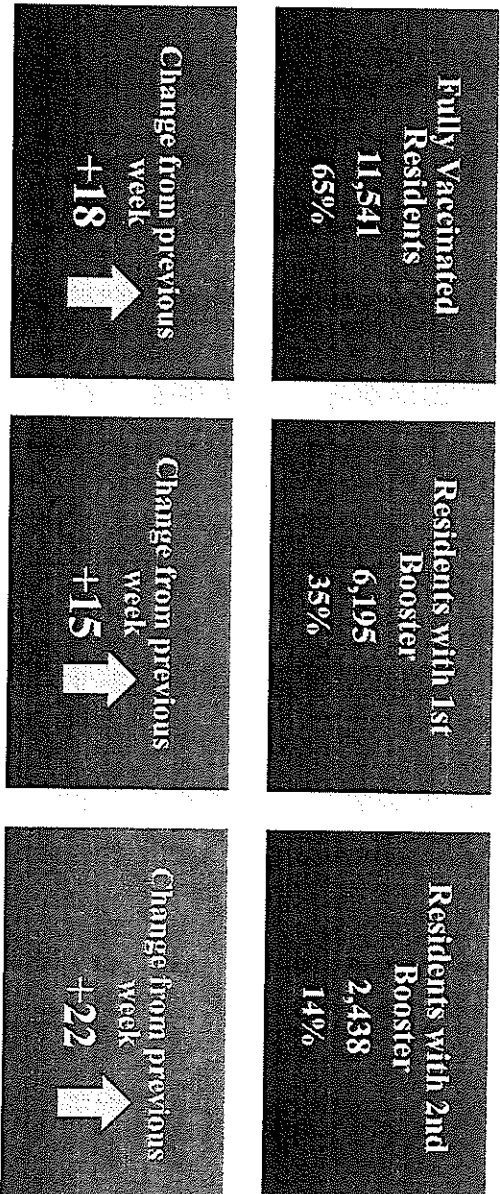
Phone: (508) 764-4252

Website: <https://www.ci.southbridge.ma.us/322/Health-Department>

41 Elm Street
Southbridge, MA 01550

Updated on Wednesday, February 8, 2023

COVID-19 VACCINE OVERVIEW



For more information on COVID-19 testing and confirmed cases that have been reported to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health please see the Massachusetts COVID-19 Interactive Data Dashboard:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting#covid-19-interactive-data-dashboard>



Public Health Department

Phone: (508) 764-4252

Website: <https://www.ci.southbridge.ma.us/322/Health-Department>

41 Elm Street
Southbridge, MA 01550

Updated on Wednesday, February 8, 2023

Terms and Definitions:

1. Residents fully vaccinated: An individual is counted as fully vaccinated if they have received the number of doses required to complete the COVID-19 vaccine series. This is measured as the total number of 2nd doses of Moderna and Pfizer administered and reported plus the total number of Janssen/Johnson & Johnson doses administered and reported.
2. Residents fully vaccinated and boosted: An individual is counted as fully vaccinated and boosted if they have received the number of doses required to complete the COVID-19 vaccine series. This is measured as the total number of 2nd doses of Moderna and Pfizer administered and reported plus the total number of Janssen/Johnson & Johnson doses administered and reported as well as having received a booster shot. Residents who are fully vaccinated and boosted are considered up-to date on their COVID vaccine.
3. MIIS: Immunization data from most providers in Massachusetts are reported into the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS) through direct messages from electronic health records or direct entry by users. Due to inputting and processing, it may take 24-48 hours or more for shipping or administration data to appear in MIIS. MIIS data are available for analysis one calendar day after they are reported to the MIIS. Data are current as of time of publication and may be subject to change in future publications as additional data are reported.
4. Information on race and ethnicity is collected and reported by laboratories, healthcare providers and local boards of health and may or may not reflect self-report by the individual case. If no information is provided by any reporter on a case's race or ethnicity, MDPH classifies it as missing. A classification of unknown indicates the reporter did not know the race and ethnicity of the individual, the individual refused to provide information or that the originating system does not capture the information. Other indicates multiple races or that the originating system does not capture the information.



Town of
SOUTHBIDGE
Massachusetts

Public Health Department

Phone: (508) 764-4252

Website: <https://www.ci.southbridge.ma.us/322/Health-Department>

41 Elm Street
Southbridge, MA 01550

Updated on Wednesday, February 8, 2023

Table of Contents

Vaccinated Residents by Age Group.....Page 4

Vaccinated and Boosted Residents by Age Group.....Page 5

Vaccinated Residents by Race/Ethnicity.....Page 6

Vaccinated Residents by Sex.....Page 7



Public Health Department

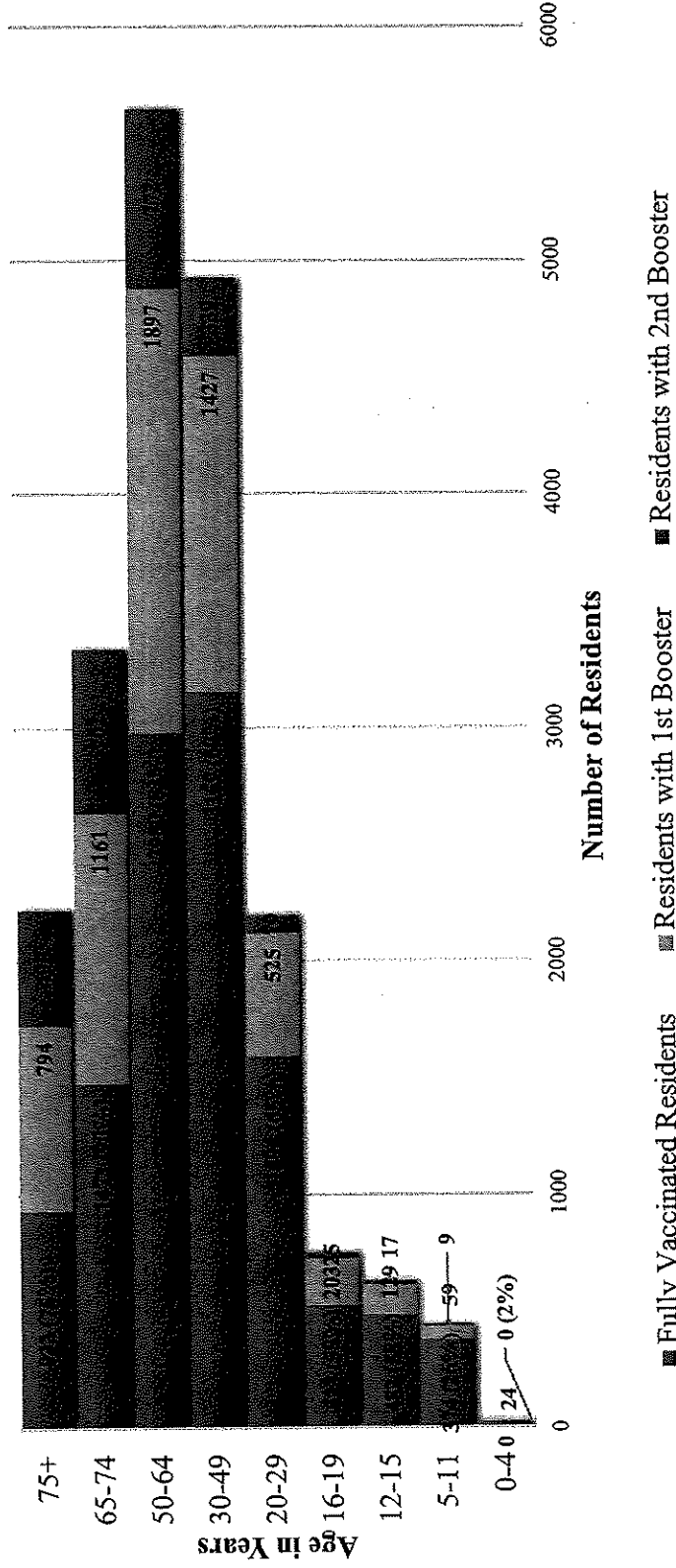
Phone: (508) 764-4252

Website: <https://www.ci.southbridge.ma.us/322/Health-Department>

41 Elm Street
Southbridge, MA 01550

Updated on Wednesday, February 8, 2023

Vaccinated Residents by Age Group



Data Source: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccination-data-and-updates#weekly-covid-19-municipality-vaccination-data->



Town of
SOUTHBRIDGE
Massachusetts

Public Health Department

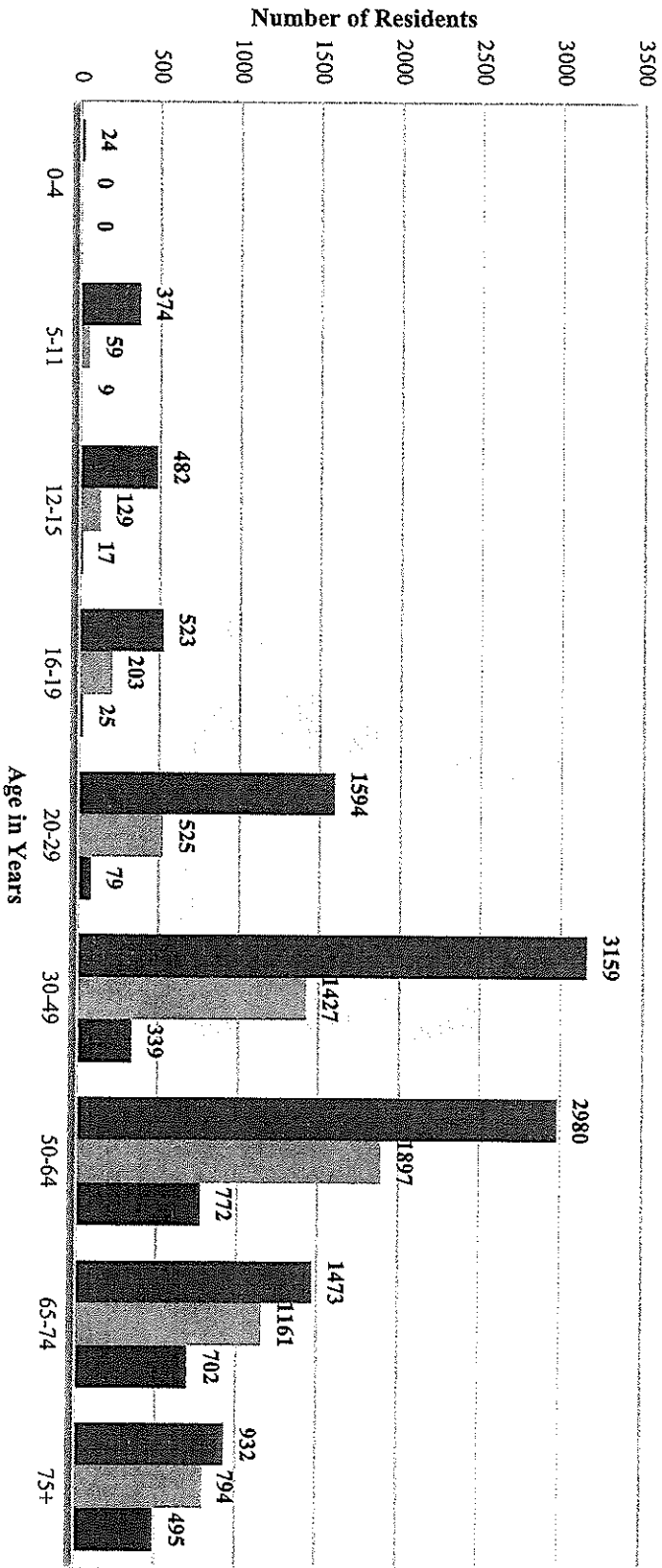
Phone: (508) 764-4252

Website: <https://www.ci.southbridge.ma.us/322/Health-Department>

41 Elm Street
Southbridge, MA 01550

Updated on Wednesday, February 8, 2023

Vaccinated and Boosted Residents by Age



Data Source: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccination-data-and-updates#weekly-covid-19-municipality-vaccination-data>



Public Health Department

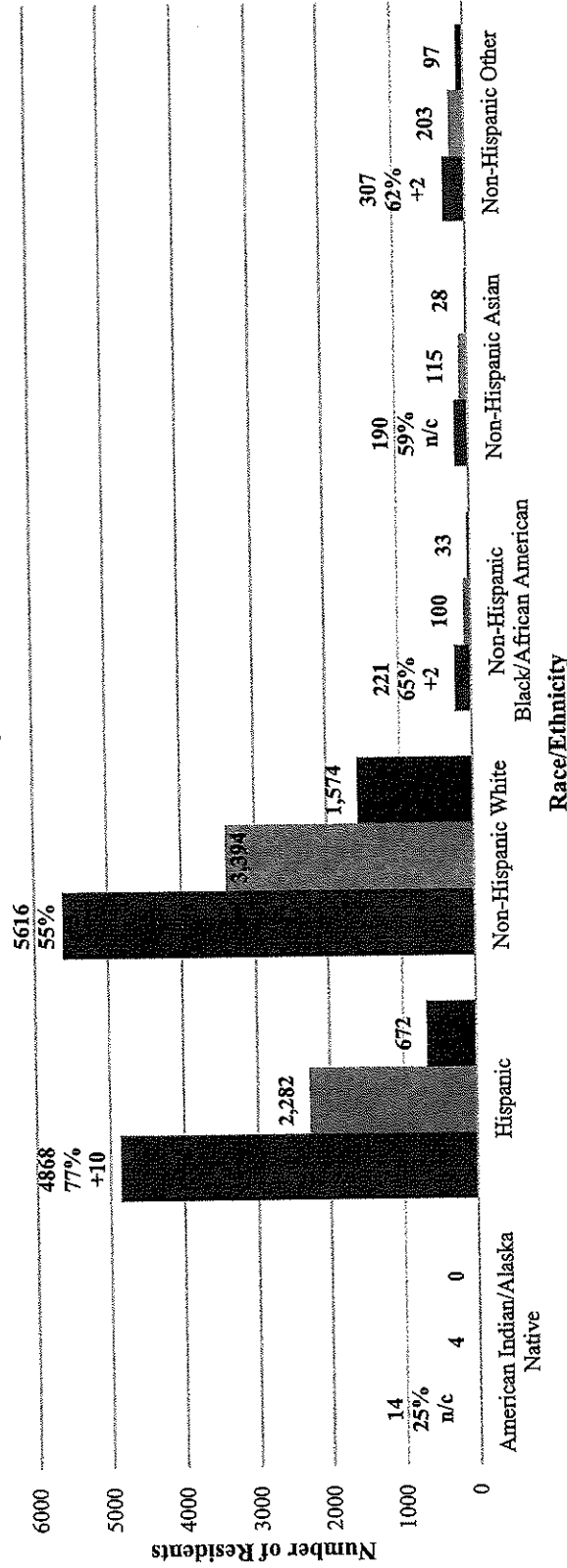
Phone: (508) 764-4252

Website: <https://www.ci.southbridge.ma.us/322/Health-Department>

41 Elm Street
Southbridge, MA 01550

Updated on Wednesday, February 8, 2023

Vaccinated Residents by Race/Ethnicity



■ Fully Vaccinated Residents ■ Residents with 1st Booster ■ Residents with 2nd Booster

Data Source: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccination-data-and-updates#weekly-covid-19-municipality-vaccination-data->



Town of
SOUTHBRIDGE
Massachusetts

Public Health Department

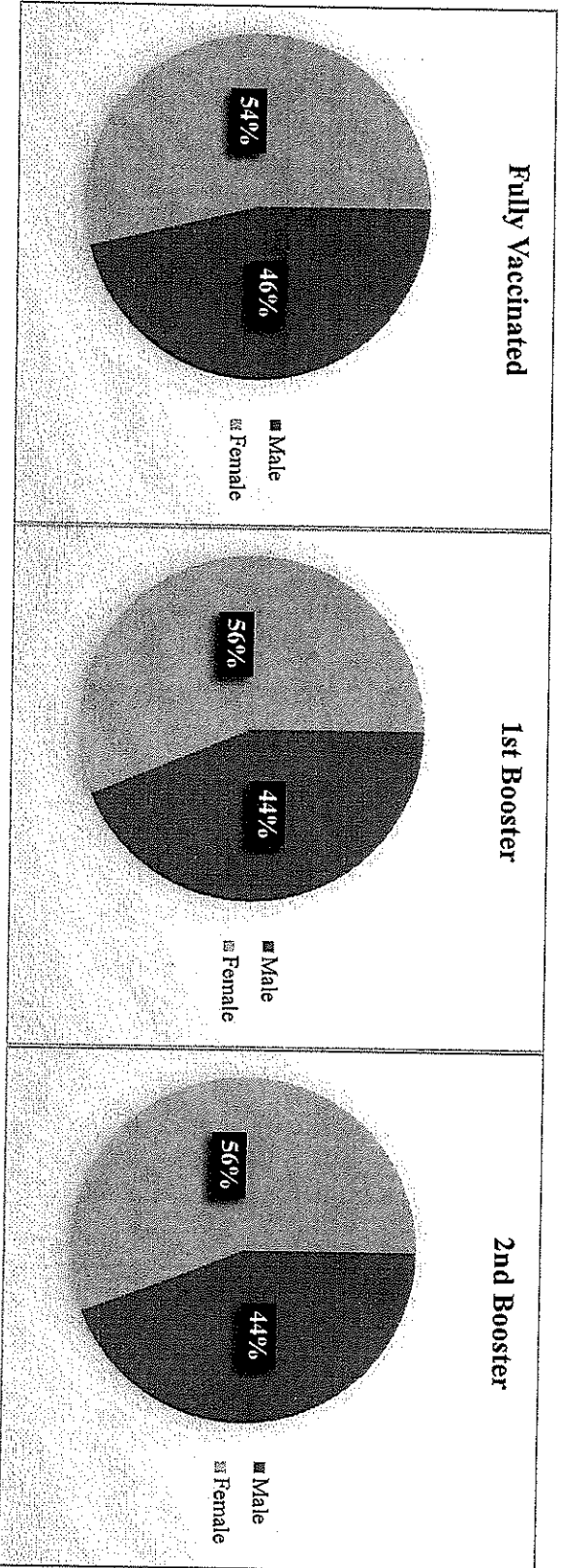
Phone: (508) 764-4252

Website: <https://www.ci.southbridge.ma.us/322/Health-Department>

41 Elm Street
Southbridge, MA 01550

Updated on Wednesday, February 8, 2023

Vaccinated Residents by Sex



Data Source: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccination-data-and-updates#weekly-covid-19-municipality-vaccination-data>



Public Health Department

Phone: (508) 764-4252

Website: <https://www.ci.southbridge.ma.us/322/Health-Department>

41 Elm Street
Southbridge, MA 01550

COVID-19 Overview January 1, 2022 – February 13, 2023

New Cases Reported	104
Hospitalizations	3
Cases in Children under 19	21 (20.2%)
Cases in individuals 60+	25 (24.0%)
New Deaths	2
Students in Southbridge School District	21
Satff in Southbridge School District	18

may deter to violators are posting signage on town owned property and although expensive, place jersey barriers or chains and or fencing for turnaround areas. This continues to be work in progress.

Councilor Daou suggests the placement of cameras in certain areas. Chair Duffey states the Board has been told there is no money available. Councilor Chenier suggests looking into grants for funds. Councilor Lazo states we will find the money that is necessary.

Councilor Marketti requests more details on agenda items as it is too vague and citizens need to know what old business and on-going business will be discussed.

Agenda #5-Old Business- Chair Duffey following up on Brick Row and the Thomas St status. Dir. Wasiuk explains Brick Row is moving to be demolished and will be before Town Council for approval. This particular property has been on the blighted list for quite some time due to the structural integrity of the property and its potential risk for public safety. The Town is looking into all avenues to make the Charlton St property habitable if possible or move forward with demolition.

Member Wasiuk requests the status on the Hamilton St property (known as 215). This property has been recently purchased and now off the blighted list.

Dir. Wasiuk announces two properties located on Main St has recently removed all the rubbish, debris and illegal dumping throughout the yard.

Agenda #6- On-going Business- Member Quinones announces the KIVA Centers 3rd respite located in Dudley. The KIVA Center has partnered up with the mobile crisis unit to be able to reduce some of the screening that is needed for emergencies room visits. This should alleviate emergency clusters.

Agenda #7- Discuss Emergency Tick control at Henry St. Field - Why Board of Health was not informed- Director Wasiuk begins with an overview including the chain of events and his duty is to protect public health as well as disease prevention. States this was a joint effort between Health Department, Town Council, DPW, Recreation and Town Manager. The Department was able to obtain a pest control company to mitigate risk of infection to the public specifically, children utilizing the field.

Chair Duffey asks when was the incident, when was it treated and why wasn't the Board notified? This could have been as simple as including the Board in an email.

Questions regarding retreating the fields arose by member Grabowski. Director Wasiuk replies often the treatment will involved several treatments begin with a subsequent treatment in July, then early fall. These have not been scheduled as of yet.

Discussion between Chair Duffey and Director Wasiuk continues regarding why the Board was not notified.

Councilor Lazo and Citizen Chenier express the Town does not have contract with a licensed pest control company nor does it have anyone on payroll who can conduct pesticides on town property. There were obvious concerns with the ticks on the field, which led to a quick response by the Director and staff. Councilor Lazo commends the Director.

Councilor Daou and Councilor Lazo both agree this is not to forum (public meeting) to question the actions of the Director of Public Health. He is doing his job to make sure that the public is safe however, there should be more communication between the two.