

# BOARD OF HEALTH



## TOWN OF HEATH

Massachusetts

### **Meeting Minutes for Special Meeting of the Heath Board of Health**

November 17, 2021, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Remote meeting held via Zoom

Board Members in Attendance: Gene Garland (chair), Barbara Gordon, Susan Gruen, Elissa Viarengo

- I. Meeting called to order 7:00 PM
- II. COVID Collaboration Meeting to happen at BOH December meeting 12/1/21
- III. FRCOG (Phoebe Walker) is available and Select Board Members are interested in attending
  - a. Susan noted we should send an invitation to all boards/committees so questions can be answered at once. Kate to reach out to boards/committees/staff once agenda is established.
- IV. Gene requested agenda items:
  - a. Meeting time should be outside of business hours – 7:00 – 8:30 pm perhaps
  - b. Elissa noted it might be good to share that there is free testing at GCC
  - c. FRCOG rep will speak to status of COVID in Mass as a whole and in Franklin County, what is happening in hill towns and in Heath; CDC guidelines, vaccines, masking, testing
  - d. Barbara wants to ensure that we are establishing guidelines that we, as a community, feel comfortable with. Board of Health wants to hear what makes our community members feel safe. Board of Health is seeking input as we:
    - i. Establish metrics that will inform our decisions to change the safety measures in place
    - ii. We are heading into a high-risk season, we should consider keeping current protective measures in place into January
    - iii. Gene noted that Phoebe/FRCOG may be able to clear up how other communities are deciding to lessen preventive measures
    - iv. Elissa agrees being PREVENTIVE vs REACTIVE in our decision-making
    - v. Town employee exposures
    - vi. Establish criteria for returning to stricter measures if necessary
      1. Note that this is a fluid and dynamic situation and things may need to change as we move forward
  - e. Open floor for Community input
  - f. Discuss forming a COVID collaboration committee to meet regularly to improve communications and develop a collaborative approach.
  - g. Time frames should be included with agenda items

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- V. Barbara attended the Select Board meeting and noted that there has been an employee exposure and they are grappling with how to handle these exposures and are currently going to treat vaccinated and unvaccinated employees the same.
  - a. Select Board would appreciate input on this – had reached out for guidance prior to the meeting
  - b. Susan noted that insurance rates could go up if unvaccinated employees get sick and are hospitalized.
- VI. Susan moved to accept the draft agenda as established in this meeting; Barbara seconded. Ayes: Susan, Barbara, Elissa, Gene.
- VII. Susan moved to buy Kate a printer. Elissa moved to suspend the motion. Barbara seconded. Ayes: Barbara, Elissa, Gene. Abstention: Susan
- VIII. BOH will meet on December 8, 3:30 – 5:00 to go over regular business.
- IX. Susan moved to adjourn, Barbara seconded. Ayes: Susan, Barbara, Elissa, Gene.