

**HEATH BOARD OF HEALTH - MONTHLY COVID COLLABORATION MEETING**  
**Meeting Minutes – May 5, 2022**  
**Remote Meeting via Zoom**

Members In Attendance: Gene Garland (chair), Lorraine Berger, Barbara Gordon, Susan Gruen, Randy Crochier (FRCOG), Kate Peppard (BOH Clerk)  
Member in attendance (not participating): Elissa Viarengo  
Guests: Tim Lively, Sue Lively, Kate Barrows

9:00 BOH Meeting called to order, moved into COVID Collaboration Special Meeting

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Reviewed Minutes. Barbara Gordon moved to accept minutes as written. Susan seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Mask Mandate:
  - a. Susan expressed concern about lack of testing, and increased transmission in the schools. Noted that 8 homebound families have been vaccinated.
  - b. Barbara noted that we will eventually need to shift to individuals making decisions for their own safety. Barbara does not want to see Heath make changes in the face of rising case numbers and fragile conditions in the hospitals (bed occupancy is high, though western mass still has over 50% ICU beds available). Current CDC community risk level for Franklin County is “LOW” but next door Berkshire County and Hampshire County are ranked as “MOD” adjacent NY State counties “HIGH” and local cases are trending up. Does not want to eliminate mask use in publicly accessible buildings at this time.
  - c. Elissa agreed that trends are not getting better, agrees to keeping safety precautions in place. Concerned about the message that would be sent.
  - d. Lorraine supports what has been said, but noted that masks are off in more populated places. Notes that it would be nice to leave it up to individual discretion.
  - e. Barbara noted that the buildings we manage with mask mandate are municipal buildings, and therefore essential for people to be able to access, which is outside the realm of personal choice.
  - f. Sue Lively noted that the buildings have been opened for more use; building use needs to be scheduled with mask mandate in effect.
  - g. Kate Barrows shared that she is hearing people share that they want freedom to choose. Would prefer to see everyone wearing masks and not have to monitor how people are congregating/socializing. Trustees will be organizing in the next week and would like them to have conversations about the library. Charlene would be comfortable with the mandate being lifted. The Post Office requirement is that she wear a mask when interacting with a customer. Lyra would support the mask mandate staying in place.
  - h. Tim Lively agrees with Kate’s statements and wants to see the mask mandates in place for times where people must be within 6 feet of one another.

- i. Randy Crochier noted there are no other towns with a mask mandate in place. Many towns are holding ATMs without masks. Makes personal choices as to when he feels comfortable/uncomfortable.
  - j. Select Board is discussing going back to in-person at their next meeting.
  - k. Sue asked if we can alter one thing to let people come into the vestibule at Sawyer Hall without a mask. Gene thought it might cause confusion and Barbara noted the vestibule would be a place where virus can accumulate.
  - l. Gene proposed tabling the mask mandate question to get through the ATM and to let the Select Board discuss. Barbara will attend the next Select Board meeting on 5/17/22.
  - m. Lorraine asked about how employees feel – Sue Lively noted that there is a mix of opinions
- 3. Town Testing Availability
  - a. Susan noted that she is travelling after the ATM, so Claire will be the contact. No employees have requested testing.
  - b. Barbara would like to encourage employees to get testing
  - c. Kate Barrows asked for information to be sent out again
- 4. Community Hall:
  - a. CH is re-opening for scheduled events. Each floor is 2000 square feet, occupancy is 25 or less people per 1000 square feet. Up to 50 on each level is within guidelines. Reservations must be made through Building Use Committee and the BUC will inform people of risks. In June, two windows are being repaired and the rest will be reviewed at that time.
- 5. ATM Safety Protocols:
  - a. BOH is tabling at ATM to hand out packets of information and hand out masks. Will be encouraging people to accept and wear our BOH provided N95 or KN95 masks at the meeting due to close proximity, especially if they are arriving with less effective masks.
  - b. Two microphones will be set up - one for people who are masking, one for those who are unmasked. Mary Sumner found covers for the microphones and asked for BOH members to help manage the microphones to exchange mic covers between speakers. Do we have BOH members willing to man the microphones. Elissa and Lorraine agreed with the solution and agreed to help at the microphones. Barbara and Susan will be at the entrance table and can provide relief for the microphone crew.
  - c. Susan suggested a robo-call to remind folks to wear a mask for voting on Friday and ATM on Saturday. Barbara noted that Hilma will do a robo-call. ATM moderator may also remind people of the importance of using N95 or KN95 masks.
- 6. Library:
  - a. Kate Barrows will be discussing changes in the library hours with the Trustees once they reconvene sometime after the election when a new Trustee will be chosen.

- b. There was discussion of possible future realignment of Library hours with the Post Office hours (Wednesday mornings and Saturday mornings). Kate expressed concerns re: managing clusters of people congregating/bottlenecks.
- c. FOL Bake Sale - Discussed whether hours be changed on Saturday of Memorial Day weekend to better support the Friends of the Library bake sale. Discussed concerns re holding bake sale on Sawyer Hall Porch due to possible congestion and obstruction of outdoor Post Office pick-up window. Suggestion that bake sale be held across the street on park picnic tables, under tent if needed. FOL should reserve through the BUC if it is at the building, but if it is on the grounds no application is needed. Parks and Rec could sponsor if needed.
- d. Sue Lively noted that Kate and the Trustees are best aware of what hours work for the library.

COVID Meeting adjourned at 9:59 AM.

*Meeting minutes recorded by BOH Clerk, Kate Peppard; edits by BOH members in attendance*  
*Minutes Approved by BOH: 6/2/2022*