

MEETING MINUTES

Town of Heath
SELECT BOARD
Virtual Meeting
December 1, 2021

Called to Order at 7:03 p.m. with Susan Lively, Brian De Vriese and Hilma Sumner, Town Coordinator, in attendance.

Others in Attendance: Board of Health members Gene Garland, Elissa Viarengo, Susan Gruen, Barbara Gordon and Lorraine Berger. Also, Tim Lively, Pam Porter, Claire Rabbitt, Emily Cross, Pat McGahan, Cathy Tallen, Kate Barrows, Bill Fontes and Sheila Litchfield.

The Select Board called their meeting to order immediately following the Board of Health who were hosting the meeting. The topic was: COVID-19 Collaboration Meeting with Community Stakeholders and included chair persons of some town boards and committees as well as Phoebe Walker, Randy Crochier and Lisa White from the Community Public Health Service (CPHS).

The CPHS staff did a presentation about the latest information regarding COVID-19 procedures and statistics. In this district case numbers are high. Franklin County has a daily rate of 27.4 new cases out of 100,000 for the week ending November 25th according to the CDC county data tracker. Infection of vaccinated people is about 68 percent of the current cases. About 95 percent of the cases are the Delta variant.

There are mask mandates throughout the district for public places. This follows the CDC guidelines that everyone wears masks when out in public when there are high positive levels. Highest levels of positive cases are being seen in connection with ice hockey, basketball, football and dances. If it is a private event, the mask mandate does not apply.

There are three layers of regulations that would apply for public situations in the town: State, Board of Health and Select Board.

The Board of Health proposed the development of a COVID Collaboration Committee to meet periodically and would be comprised of representatives from relevant boards and committees. They would meet periodically to stay apprised of the latest status of COVID and would work on such tasks as developing criteria ahead of time as to what guidelines and mandates would need to be put in place when the infection rates were at a particular level. This would be based on naming what needs to be seen to take certain action or to drop mandates to a more relaxed standard. It was agreed by those in attendance that this could be helpful making consistent policy changes.

8:23 p.m. On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Hilma A. Sumner
Town Coordinator