



TOWN OF TISBURY

office of

THE BOARD OF HEALTH

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MEETING MINUTES – July 28, 2020 – 4:00 PM

The Tisbury Board of Health (BOH) held a meeting on Tuesday, July 28, 2020, at 4:00 PM.

Due to ongoing efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the meeting was held remotely—Zoom meeting ID: 924 8490 3499; Password: 277246.

Chairman Boyd called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Commissioners in attendance were Chairman Malcolm Boyd, Dr. Michael Loberg, Vice-Chairman, and Jeff Pratt, Clerk. Ms. Maura Valley, Health Agent, and Ms. Catie Blake, Assistant Health Agent, were also in attendance.

Mr. Mark Saloio, Tisbury Police Chief, was in attendance.

The meeting minutes from July 14, 2020, were approved with one minor correction--contracts tracing to contact tracing.

HEALTH AGENT REPORT

- COVID update & discussion

Ms. Valley stated that, like nationwide, the Island is also experiencing delays in reporting test results. It's now taking 7+ days for the general public, but it is still possible to request a 24-48-hour priority for first responders, healthcare workers, etc.

The daily testing numbers at the test site have increased to approximately 250 testees due to on-site and on-line registration. It is believed this will continue to grow. The expansion of testing to include minors with parental consent is also being researched. A protocol for younger age groups is still being devised, perhaps with a parent administering the test, but this is still a topic for more discussion. Ms. Valley confirmed that student testing is part of the ongoing talks about reopening schools in the Fall.

On Friday, July 24th, Governor Baker issued a travel advisory quarantine order for people traveling from high-risk states. Travelers, including Massachusetts residents when they return from out-of-state travel, are required to self-quarantine for 14 days or until they can receive a negative test result unless they come to the State with a negative test taken within the previous 72 hours. There is an online form that must be completed by travelers and transmitted to the contact tracing coalition, who will share the information with the local Board of Health offices. On a local level, the Town is authorized to issue \$500 tickets if people are not abiding by the quarantine order. Otherwise, the State will send daily text reminders to quarantine to travelers, and when the period is over. The State is relying on voluntary compliance, but signs will be posted along State highways and at airports and bus depots. Lodging & Airbnb establishments are obligated to post the travel order on their websites and in-person when making a reservation and checking in.

- Kuehn's Way septic system

Ms. Valley reported that she spoke to Town Counsel, who confirmed that it would be possible to have the current and proposed septic permits for simultaneously valid for Island Housing Trust (IHT). This will, however, reopen the public hearing process and appeal period for the second proposal. Ms. Valley will schedule a public hearing as soon as the BOH office has received the IHT's revised application.

- Additional update

Ms. Valley reported that due to reduced operations in business areas and low water flow, only emergency pump-outs are accepted at the Edgartown and Tisbury wastewater facilities. A decision needs to be considered for routine/maintenance pump-outs, i.e., setting up a staging and transfer area for pumpers at the old septage lagoons for the eventual transport off-island. More information will be provided at a future meeting.

ASSISTANT HEALTH AGENT REPORT

- General Foodservice Update

Ms. Blake has been assisting with the openings of Pie Chicks, The Cove's taco truck, and tent seating for Mikado on Main Street.

- Mask compliance

Ms. Blake estimated 95% compliance with mask-wearing in Tisbury. In areas where there have been challenges, cooperative resolutions have been implemented--the post office has moved part of their customer service line outside, and USPS representatives monitor the in-store crowd. There are issues with close encounters at the Owen Park dock as people are exiting their dinghies. It may be necessary to post additional signage that tends to get weather-beaten and assign a BOH deputy at the location. Ms. Valley confirmed that the harbormaster and shellfish constable are now authorized to enforce the wearing of masks.

Another area of concern is in front of Leslie's Pharmacy, where people are using the bench near their front door to eat and drink and socialize, and patrons wait to pay for and receive their prescriptions. Ms. Blake is working with the management at Leslie's to ban food and drink with signage and stricter enforcement to wear masks now that a new order is in place.

Commissioner Pratt mentioned that the West Chop area is generally non-compliant at the tennis courts and as people are walking to and from the children's field camp, which is claimed to be more of a babysitting service by the parents. Ms. Blake believes it is more of a summer camp by definition--there are four counselors and thirty kids. There is a sign-up on Sundays. They meet at the West Chop field, and they're there for three hours. Many of the attendees seem to be related. Ms. Blake has been in contact with a State representative for their advice and interpretation of the matter. In the meantime, Ms. Blake has provided masks for the counselors and kids to wear.

APPOINTMENTS

4:00 PM - Mandatory mask order

Ms. Valley introduced the topic for the commissioners, Tisbury Selectman and Police Chief Saloio. Such an order is for the BOH to adopt, but BOS personnel's assistance is needed and requested. She forwarded a copy of the proposal with Town Counsel's changes to all. Due to the lack of a map identifying the Vineyard Haven cultural district, the enforcement area has changed to be the downtown area up to Owen Park, the parking area and dock at Lake Street Landing, the parking area and entrances to Lake Tashmoo Beach, the parking area and access to Owen Little Way Beach. Ms. Valley added that it might be worth considering the addition of the area down to Beach Road, including the Tisbury Marketplace. She clarified that the only people who would not be required to wear a mask are diners at The Net Result, for example. Chief Saloio suggested that other areas, such as Franklin Street and further up State Road, be considered; however, as Ms. Valley explained, social distancing is possible in those parts of Town.

Mr. Mac Schilcher concurred with the proposed order, especially due to high levels of humidity.

The commissioners voted to adopt the proposed mask order with the Beach Road corridor down to and including the Tisbury Marketplace included, effective at 12:00 AM on July 30, 2020.

Ms. Valley confirmed that she would draft a statement to the press regarding the mandatory mask order for release tomorrow morning. She will also be ordering standardized signs (like other Island towns) for printing and posting.

4:30 PM - Public hearing (4:27 PM)

- Lynn Irons / green burial

Ms. Irons and her attorney, Ms. Casey Doble, were in attendance to present the results from the abutter notifications, to which no feedback was received from any of Ms. Irons' neighbors. Ms. Doble agreed to forward a copy of the announcement and map of the burial siting to the BOH office tomorrow.

No abutters were present for the public hearing, so with Ms. Valley's recommendation, the commissioners voted to close the discussion without a vote until the map and notification are received. The matter can now proceed for BOS approval, and the commissioners can take a vote at their next meeting on August 11th.

BILLS & PERMITS APPROVED VIA DOCUSIGN – N/A

With no further business to conduct, the Board of Health commissioners adjourned the meeting at 4:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Soushek
Administrative Secretary

Document(s)

The Board of Health commissioners accept the meeting minutes, dated July 28th, 2020, as presented.

Date: 8/13/20 Signed:  D4B3FA4AA889417...