

TOWN OF TISBURY

office of

THE BOARD OF HEALTH

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MEETING MINUTES – July 14, 2020 – 4:00 PM

The Tisbury Board of Health (BOH) held a meeting on Tuesday, June 30, 2020, at 4:00 PM.

Due to ongoing efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the meeting was held remotely—Zoom meeting ID: 989 5560 0783; Password: 758964

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, Ms. Catie Blake, Assistant Health Agent, and Valerie Soushek, Administrative Secretary, were also in attendance.

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

The meeting minutes from June 30, 2020, were approved as written.

HEALTH AGENT REPORT

COVID-19

Ms. Valley reported eight positive cases last week, four from one (local) family, and the others had come to the island as seasonal employees and were tested before they started working. It's hard to know if they contracted the virus on- or off-island. Contact tracing was completed.

Mandatory mask order for Tisbury—

Ms. Valley reminded the commissioners that she sent a draft of Nantucket's order that she revised for the Vineyard Haven Cultural District. Mr. Jay Grande, the Town Administrator,

requested a discussion with the Board of Selectman (BOS) before anything requiring enforcement is adopted by the BOH. As their employer, the BOS will need to understand how such an order will impact departments with collective bargaining unit employees and police officers.

Chief Saloio concurred with Ms. Valley. His biggest concern is that there is no mechanism in place to require identification for enforcement. The legal consensus is that unless officers are deputized as BOH agents, the order would be unenforceable. These are two significant issues given the ambiguity of Governor Baker's guidelines.

The Town of Edgartown implemented a similar policy; however, they will be hiring enforcement agents during the initial trial period.

Chief Saloio confirmed that community policing and education, as preferred by the BOH commissioners, has been practiced from the onset. Officers have been handing out masks as reinforcement. In general, most people have been cooperative when asked to comply.

All agreed that a unified approach and joint consensus within the Town is appropriate; the BOS needs to be involved.

Ms. Valley confirmed that she would set up a meeting. Ultimately, the BOH decides to adopt such an order; however, the BOS is the employer of the employees needed for enforcement agents. Hopefully, they will be available to meet later this week.

The commissioners want the BOS to know that they are not in favor of #10 of the draft order. Fining is not recommended as the first order of business.

Ms. Valley stated that the general public wants the Town to start writing tickets, but she doesn't know how to go about doing so. It's very problematic. There may be times when a citation is warranted; however, enforcement is a challenge without a mechanism. She agreed to tell the BOS that the first course of action should be community policing/education and citing with fines should be a last resort.

Ms. Valley reported that the BOH office has been receiving a lot of complaints about the Vineyard Haven Post Office. There have been long wait lines with inadequate social distancing, missing masks, too many people (30 – 50) in areas where social distancing is not possible, and no enforcement of customer capacity at the customer service counter. She and Ms. Blake are trying to contact the person in charge regarding moving the waiting line outside and installing lines on the floors and sidewalk at six feet intervals. Ms. Valley informed the commissioners that while federal employees are not obligated to comply with state or local orders, she hopes to reach an agreement with the post office staff and will report back to the commissioners with an update in a week.

Kuehn's Way NitROE system proposal—

Ms. Valley reported that she contacted KP Law to obtain an opinion about approving a new septic system and allowing the approved system to remain active. She is waiting to hear back from Jonathan Silverstein, attorney to the Tisbury Zoning Board of Appeals for the Kuehn's Way project.

ASSISTANT HEALTH AGENT REPORT

Ms. Blake reported that she has been dealing with COVID-19 related complaints, i.e., no face coverings, seating distances, etc.

She will be inspecting the Island Cove food truck at the end of the week.

The public health nurse is following up with Little House Café after one of their employees contracted COVID-19. They did have to close and sanitize the restaurant.

According to Governor Baker's recent update, reusable bags are allowed again in grocery stores, and shopper capacities increased.

APPOINTMENT(S)

4:30 PM → 4:38 PM Ms. Lynn Irons and Ms. Casey Dobel, Esquire, regarding a home burial proposal

Ms. Valley explained the purpose of the meeting:

Ms. Lynn Irons wants to be buried on her State Road property, a ½ acre parcel across from the Tashmoo overlook. As a first step in the approval process, Mass DEP has written that it's not detrimental to ground or surface water. The next step is for the BOH to approve the proposal through a public hearing and abutter notifications.

The BOS will be the final approvers of the request.

Ms. Dobel confirmed that the execution of a deed restriction would be required and that future owners must not disturb the burial site. She stated that green burials are becoming a popular, eco-friendly trend across the State. No chemicals are used, and the deceased may choose to be wrapped in a shroud, contained in an untreated pine box, or buried with no casket or covering.

A public hearing will be scheduled for July 28th at 4:30 PM.

Ms. Dobel will send abutter notifications (via first-class mail).

NEW BUSINESS

Well Application – Massabesic Realty Tr. / Massabesic Ave. / 66-M-1 – Approved.

Well Application – Rachel Paletsky / 127 Red Coat Hill / 52-A-7 – Approved.

DISPOSAL WORKS APPLICATION(s) APPROVED BY BOARD

DWA 4258 Jonathan Rose / 105 Hines Point / 11-A-44 – Approved.

DWA 4265 Madeline & Wanda Moreis / 82 Summer Street / 25-E-6 – Approved.

Ms. Valley agreed to have DWA packages available by noon on the day before future BOH Meetings in the Town Hall Annex lobby, for the commissioners to review.

With no further business to conduct, the Board of Health commissioners adjourned the meeting at 5:14 PM.

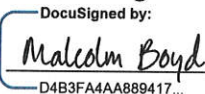
Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Soushek
Administrative Secretary

Document(s)

The Board of Health commissioners accept the meeting minutes, dated July 14, 2020, as presented.

Date: 7/20/20

Signed:  Malcolm Boyd
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