



TOWN OF TISBURY

office of

THE BOARD OF HEALTH

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MEETING MINUTES – August 11, 2020 – 4:00 PM

The Tisbury Board of Health (BOH) held a meeting on Tuesday, August 11, 2020, at 4:00 PM.

Due to ongoing efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the meeting was held remotely—Zoom meeting ID: 948 0239 1864; Password: 431274.

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.

The meeting minutes from July 28, 2020, were approved as written.

HEALTH AGENT REPORT

- COVID update & discussion

Ms. Valley reported three new positive cases today from the testing center. They are still working on getting testing for under 18 patients. The effective date is unknown. Quest is back to providing a 2-3 ^{day} average turnaround for test results. The school administration has approved the test center to keep the high school location until September 12th, extended from August 28th. They are looking for another site on the Island, probably with reduced testing days.

Island health agents have been meeting with the school administration about their reopening plan, which starts remotely and slowly moves into a hybrid learning method, bringing in the youngest students, grades K, 2, and 3, to school first. The last groups to return in person would be junior high and high school students in cohorts: one group would go to school in person on Monday and Tuesday, and another group would go on Thursday and Friday. Wednesday would be a remote learning and deep cleaning day. The school committees will be voting on the proposed plan later this week.

The health agents are working with school administrators to develop workable metrics by considering the Island's changing population.

Ms. Valley ordered more signage for mandatory masks. The Department of Public Works representatives has posted them around town.

- Kuehn's Way septic system

Ms. Valley reported that the abutters' court appeal for the project stopped the deadline clock, so the current permit for a Bioclere with a bottomless sand filter system is still valid. Island Housing Trust can proceed with their application for a NitROE system.

- Nitrogen regulations

Ms. Valley suggested that it may be time to revise the current regulations to require a lower nitrogen load produced given improved septic technologies, i.e., NitROE and SanTOE. Tisbury has 13 in operation currently.

Commissioner Loberg recommended holding a virtual public hearing to review the results and status of the NitROE grant, well testing, etc. Ms. Valley will continue to research the matter and assemble the data received so far for a future discussion.

- General complaints

Ms. Valley is working with the Vineyard Haven Postmaster to get the parking lot cleaned up again due to recent litter complaints of needles, masks, rubber gloves, etc. To confirm, Ms. Valley did not find any evidence of needles.

A dumping complaint has been received from an abutter to Taylor Wilson's property on Skiff Avenue. Mr. Wilson has been given a deadline of Monday, August 17th, to remove the junk. Otherwise, contempt of court charges will be filed against him.

An EPA complaint was received about dust from sandblasting activities at Packer's property on Beach Road.

ASSISTANT HEALTH AGENT REPORT

- Mask compliance

Ms. Blake reported that she spends a few hours every couple of days on foot patrol to enforce mask and social distancing compliance. The Beach Road corridor has been very challenging to monitor recently. She is also working with businesses that are not requiring masks and social distancing.

- Violation warning

Ms. Blake reported that Adventure Rentals has received three verbal warnings and a hand-delivered and mailed written warning. A citation will be issued next if they continue to disregard the orders for wearing masks and social distancing.

APPOINTMENTS

4:30 PM – George Sourati re disposal works application –

- DWA 4267 55 Church Street LLC / 55 Church Street / 7-B-7 – Approved, pending receipt of abutter notification copies by the BOH office.

4:45 PM – Doug Cooper re disposal works application – 124 Main Street

- DWA 4269 Gene Shreve / 124 Main Street / 6-D-6 - Approved

NEW BUSINESS

- Bjorn Cassini – Rabies vaccine exemption renewal – Approved

With no further business to conduct, the Board of Health commissioners adjourned the meeting at 4:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Soushek
Administrative Secretary

Document(s)

The Board of Health commissioners accept the meeting minutes, dated August 11th, 2020, as presented.

Date: _____ Signed:  _____
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