



TOWN OF TISBURY

office of

THE BOARD OF HEALTH

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MEETING MINUTES – September 22, 2020 – 4:00 PM

The Tisbury Board of Health (BOH) held a meeting on Tuesday, September 22, 2020, at 4:00 PM.

Due to ongoing efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the meeting was held virtually by Zoom – Meeting ID: 910 1360 5411; Password: 303414.

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.

Approval of the meeting minutes from September 8, 2020, was postponed.

Ms. Pam Bennett, Human Resources, was in attendance for the Halloween discussion.

HEALTH AGENT REPORT

- COVID update & discussion

Ms. Valley reported on two new COVID-19 cases, an elderly married couple from Edgartown. Contact tracing has been done. There are no signs of having any spikes in cases as Nantucket has had.

Schools reopened this past week. Cohort C for high needs students is the only group assembling at this time. Younger students will return to school on September 29th. Down-island schools are not going to allow access to playground equipment. Instead, administrators will plan to organize hoop and obstacle course activities until a cleaning plan is executed.

The School Committee decided to follow the Health and Wellness Committee's recommendation to limit Fall sports to intermural and MIAA Level 2, which is aligned with Tisbury's guidance for re-opening Town athletic fields.

Ms. Valley had a Zoom meeting with Ms. Denise Schepici, Martha's Vineyard Hospital, about COVID-19 testing at the schools. They agreed that a baseline should be established for each student at the beginning of the year. After that, pediatricians should make testing recommendations for patients showing flu or COVID symptoms.

Ms. Valley and Ms. Schepici also discussed a flu vaccine program. The vaccine is available in limited quantities at MV Hospital, mainly for hospital employees. A drive-thru clinic will be open for hospital patients, first. Some of the vaccines will also be saved for pediatric practices for testing school-age children.

Ms. Schepici agreed to partner with the Island Boards of Health to hold a clinic by recruiting nursing staff if the Island Boards of Health can secure the vaccine quantities. It is still unclear how much the Island will be receiving from the State. A drive-thru clinic will be scheduled at the current testing site once the State provides confirmation.

- Nitrogen regulations (ongoing update)

Ms. Valley reported that she contacted Adam Turner of Martha's Vineyard Commission. They are planning to meet on Friday, September 25th, to discuss the alignment of Tisbury's and MVC's Nitrogen regulations as part of the No New Net Nitrogen program.

- Halloween

Ms. Valley recommended waiting to decide whether to allow the Town Halloween celebration until the commissioners meet on October 13th. By then, the State will have posted guidelines, and schools will have been in session for a few weeks. Ms. Valley will share the State's guidance with the commissioners as it becomes available.

- Staging/transfer area for septage pump-outs

Ms. Valley reported that it's likely that Edgartown Wastewater will only allow emergency septage discharges permanently. Some septage haulers are looking for areas to stage and transfer waste before transporting it off-island. Mr. Jay Araujo, Jay's Septic, believes that he has secured a space for rent near the airport where he will park a 9,000-gallon truck for transferring emergency and maintenance waste until it is full. Mr. Tim Peters, TP Excavation, is working with the Town of Oak Bluffs to use a staging site at their old landfill. The health agents need to address this before this becomes an urgent matter.

Tisbury Wastewater will resume accepting small amounts of waste once construction activities are complete at the plant.

- Finished basement – 611 Chappaquonsett

Ms. Valley reported that the property owners at 611 Chappaquonsett are looking to finish their basement with two rooms for recreation and storage and no bathroom. This parcel of 3-4 acres

are located in a Coastal District with well water. The current septic system is designed for four bedrooms, which they already have. The system was over-designed with a maximum allowable loading of 747 gallons per day, but it only has a 1,000-gallon tank.

The commissioners requested that Maura discuss the installation of a NitROE tank as a condition of BOH approval of the proposed renovations.

ASSISTANT HEALTH AGENT REPORT

- Food service updates

Ms. Blake reported that she has been conducting unannounced foodservice and restaurant inspections. Approximately twenty are completed to date. There have been some challenges with bringing establishments into compliance due to the limited workforce on the Island.

Beach testing is over for the season.

Ms. Blake is trying to get many inspections done before she goes out for medical leave.

DISPOSAL WORKS APPLICATION APPROVED BY BOARD

DWA 4273 / Gregory/Martino / 127 Red Coat Hill / 52-A-7, 8, 8.3 - Approved

With no further business to conduct, the Board of Health commissioners adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Soushek
Administrative Secretary

Document(s)

The Board of Health commissioners accept the meeting minutes, dated September 22, 2020, as presented.

Date: 10/13/20 Signed:  Malcolm Boyd
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