



TOWN OF TISBURY

office of

THE BOARD OF HEALTH

PO Box 666, 66 High Point Lane
Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts 02568

MEETING MINUTES – January 11, 2022 – 4 PM

The Tisbury Board of Health (BOH) held a meeting on Tuesday, ~~December 14, 2021~~, at 4:00 PM. Due to ongoing efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the meeting was held virtually via Zoom, ID 970 5689 4859, Passcode 317040, phone 646-876-9923. *January 11, 2022 (VS)*

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

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

The meeting minutes of December 14, 2021, were approved as written.

APPOINTMENTS

4:30 PM Spring Shelden / S & S Kitchenette / 48 Main Street

Ms. Blake summarized the purpose of the appointment—Ms. Shelden will be taking over the former location of Mad Martha's on Main Street. She will be using locally sourced grab-and-go foods. She proposes having 24 table seats for chef dinners, cooking classes, demonstrations, book signings, and tastings in the evenings. Ms. Blake explained that due to inadequate bathroom facilities in the space, Ms. Shelden would need to reduce the number of seats to 19 or petition for a variance with the State.

Ms. Shelden confirmed that the goal of the business is to showcase local makers and farmers. The approved commercial kitchen is downstairs, and she will use the upstairs space for premade meals, dinner kits, and food-to-go with a small pantry section. The event space will be for classes, demonstrations, rehearsal dinners, staff parties, etc.

The commissioners voted unanimously to approve Ms. Shelden's request.

4:45 PM Brook Katzen

Mr. Katzen is moving Mad Martha's to the former Glass House location. The ice cream will be made in Edgartown and transported to Vineyard Haven. He is requesting 19 seats, the maximum allowed with one handicapped-accessible restroom. He intends to go before the ZBA for a special permit for partial outside seating. The septic flow and grease trap specifications were sent to Mr. Jared Meader, Tisbury Wastewater. Ms. Valley reminded that once Mr. Meader has set the flow for the space, the BOH will approve the number of seats allowed based on his decision.

The commissioners motioned to approve Mr. Katzen's proposal contingent on the decision by Tisbury Wastewater.

HEALTH AGENT REPORT

- COVID update / mask mandate / distribution of test kits

Ms. Valley reported on the current surge at 495 positive cases. As of January 1st, 2022, over-the-counter (OTC) tests are reported as part of the total positive cases. However, the weekly report will show a bar graph differentiating PCR and OTC positives. Based on the current transmission rates, it is believed that the (very infectious) omicron variant is responsible for the surge. Complete contact tracing is impossible with the large caseload, so the health agents developed an email and text messaging protocol to provide guidance and remind the cases to notify their close contacts. High-risk patients and non-vaccinated children will be the priorities for contact tracing activities.

The vaccination bus was back on the island last weekend. Thirty-four pediatric first doses, 74 pediatric second doses, 19-first doses for ages 12 and over, 16-second doses for ages 12 and over, and 318 booster shots were administered.

The Town of Tisbury received a pallet of test kits (1350) earlier today. Cases were delivered to hospice, EMS, and the Center for Living. A distribution will be held for Tisbury residents tomorrow at the BOH office, 9:30-noon. A second distribution will be held Thursday, January 13th, at the EMS building, 4 – 6 PM. A delivery of two more pallets is expected next week. The goal is to have kits on hand for drop-in distribution as residents need.

Ms. Valley reminded the commissioners that the current mask mandate needs to be re-visited before the current deadline of January 15th. If not changed, it will extend automatically. She stated that the schools had extended their mandate through February 28th. Additionally, the health agents recommended that N95 or KN95 masks be worn based on the current transmission rate in the local newspapers. Risk messaging will be continued and reinforced, i.e., choose potential exposure situations wisely.

- Nitrogen regulations

Ms. Valley reviewed Town Counsel's comments on the proposed regulations. He believes it is well within the BOH's right to adopt them and require such systems even if they are in the provisional stage of approval since they have shown to be effective in removing nitrogen. Based on Counsel's review and two public hearings, the commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the

new regulations, effective February 1, 2022. Ms. Valley will advertise the updates in the local newspapers and file them with Mass DEP. Additionally, the commissioners agreed to revisit the regulations with the Oak Bluffs Board of Health.

- Draft needs assessment

Ms. Valley provided draft copies of the needs assessment to the commissioners for their review. Chairman Loberg explained that the committee's goal is to protect the waterways, and that includes filing a CWMP. The first part of that process is a needs assessment, which would, among other things, be a determining factor for the size of a future sewage plant. The current plant is small and mainly sized to preserve and maintain sanitation in the inner harbor. The needs assessment this time was prepared initially by Environmental Partners. In doing so, they assembled many prior reports from other advisors and consultants for the Town. However, Tisbury will need to determine the need based on demand or plans for the (Town and) Island. The assessment will be forwarded to the Planning Board next, but it will be at least two years before any decisions are finalized.

- February meeting schedule

The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 25th; however, Ms. Valley and Chairman Loberg will not be available. It was agreed by all that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 4 PM.

ASSISTANT HEALTH AGENT UPDATE

- General updates

Ms. Blake reported that The Larder is being sold. The commissary kitchen will remain, but the new manager asks to add a second kitchen for her and three sub-lessees. Ms. Blake has some wastewater concerns, given that two other businesses share the current septic system. She believes that the BOH should consider some limitations for the future based on overcrowding lessons learned with the previous owner/managers. A proposal still needs to be submitted to the BOH.

DWA FOR BOARD APPROVAL – N/A

BILLS AND PERMITS FOR APPROVAL

Wright-Pierce / landfill monitoring / \$3,050

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

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Soushek
Administrative Secretary

Document(s)

The Board of Health commissioners accept the meeting minutes, dated January 11, 2022, as presented.

Date: _____

Signed: _____

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