

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

Great Barrington, Massachusetts

Via Zoom

January 7th, 2021

Present:

Michael Lanoue, Chairman

Ruby Chang

Peter Stanton, Vice Chair

Rebecca Jurczyk, Health Agent

Ned Saviski, Health Inspector

A. CALL TO ORDER (Roll Call Vote)

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

B. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

December 3rd, 2020 (Discussion/Vote)

Approved: 3-0

C. SPECIAL PERMIT REVIEW

No Special Permit Reviews

D. BUSINESS

1. Update on First Responder COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics in South County.

Rebecca Jurczyk: Vaccine is here. Department of Public Health (DPH) has requested Berkshire County Boards of Health take the lead on mass vaccination clinics. The clinics are closed to the public, and specifically for first responders. Six hundred doses of vaccine were received for the County of which 150 are allotted for Southern Berkshire. Three clinics will be located in Berkshire County; North Adams, Pittsfield and Great Barrington. The first shipment is for the first phase of inoculations. The amount we get for the first round, we'll get the same for second round. Fairview Hospital will be managing all the clinics going forward. Heather Barbieri from Fairview Hospital will be in charge of managing the emergency dispensing sites.

Two clinics are scheduled: January 13th and January 16th, 2021 for First Responders. Moderna will be the vaccine given. Health Department will not have an active role managing the clinics. The vaccine is optional for first responders. Volunteers at the clinics will receive vaccines.

Ruby Chang: Usually an information sheet is given out that goes over details and concerns of vaccine. The drawback is that there is no information like this available when you sign up to read over and make an informed decision. The information going out is very important. This is a new method so people don't understand how it works. The vaccine will not protect you from giving or getting the virus, only lessen symptoms. Maybe a call in session for people that have questions? Willing to help out/volunteer in any way.

Rebecca Jurczyk: At the Clinic they will be getting information. A lot of concern is about the side effects. Patients are required to stay 15 minutes after shot for monitoring. Going into Phase 2 maybe we should have a zoom meeting for questions and answers, information session and record it to put on the town website.

Ruby Chang: There is a fact sheet available through CVDVaccine.com. If we could post something from a reputable source it might help. A lot of opinions and talk about vaccines out there. A lot of people are skeptical and more information would be helpful.

Rebecca Jurczyk: We are getting calls requesting to be put on the list.

Michael Lanoue: Agrees we should have an information session. Any more on the First Responders?

Rebecca Jurczyk: Could be a lot of shifting where people fall in eligibility. Passing out the link for the State's Web Site to keep people updated on when their eligibility is up.

Ruby Chang: Also add to please contact your Primary Care Physician to be put on a list.

Michael Lanoue: Move on to any updates on the Housatonic Water Works.

2. Updates Related to Public Health and Housatonic Water Works.

Rebecca Jurczyk: The two phased engineering and appraisal assessment is still ongoing. We don't expect there to be anything new for a couple months.

E. COMMUNITY COVID-19:

- **BOH Q & A:**

Michael Lanoue: Any questions?

Ruby Chang: Concerned about younger patients – early 20's. Uptick in this age group usually in households. Positive rate is higher and you really need to boost up your diligence.

Michael Lanoue: Any defense the medical community is offering?

Ruby Chang: We want to attain a good level of Vitamin D. In the winter we are all covered up and levels are down.

Also, a monoclonal antibody infusion will help keep people out of the Hospital with severe symptoms. Not for kids. Check in with your Primary Care Physician about dosage and treatment on this.

Michael Lanoue: How is the new indoor testing facility working out?

Rebecca Jurczyk: Working much better since Broad took over with tests.

Ruby Chang: Have not had much Flu due to masking

- **CITIZEN Q & A:**

Ed Abrahams: Daughter tested positive so all were exposed. Public health nurse instructed them on what to do. She was exposed by a friend who tested negative two days prior. Anything we can do to get the information out that we still need to do masking and social distancing, even if we had the virus or have had the vaccine.

Ruby Chang: Most are not Contagious after 10 days. There is no way of knowing if you are still contagious after this. There are a lot of factors that determine this.

Rebecca Jurczyk: There are a couple days where you don't know if you are a close contact. Until they are positive you don't really know what to do. Hearing a lot from people calling the Health Department wondering how they know if they

are a close contact. Because of this we are being a little stricter with local businesses to try and help slow the spread.

Ruby Chang: This all depends on how closely we work with someone and how careful we are. The BMC Link line may be of help answering questions.

Michael Lanoue: If no other questions we can move on to department updates.

F. HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATES:

- **November and December Report:**

Rebecca Jurczyk: November and December the Food establishment's inspections are completed. Governor command center has continued the capacity guidelines in place until January 24th. 9:30 curfew still in effect for Restaurants.

Ned Saviski: Update on status of Restaurants and hours of operations. Business is slower, many are limiting hours, and closing early and operating on take out only.

Rebecca Jurczyk: Hand Sanitizing stations rented from A1 Septic and put up downtown. Money from Cares act was used to pay for rentals.

Two Housing Properties will be on agenda going forward.

23 Bernard Gibbons: Work on apartment scheduled to begin January 18th, 2021.

232 Stockbridge Road: Appeal hearing scheduled for January 13th, 2021.

Budget review for Fiscal year 2022 starts in the next month. Email any suggestions, not planning any increases or decreases.

G. BOARD OF HEALTH SPEAK TIME:

Nothing Further

H. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:

Nothing Further

I. MEDIA TIME

Nothing Further

J. ADJOURNMENT:

7:48 PM (Roll Call Vote)

Respectfully submitted,



Ned Saviski
Health Inspector