

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
Great Barrington, Massachusetts  
Via Zoom  
September 15<sup>th</sup>, 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) 3-0 5:05 pm**

**B. COMMUNITY COVID-19:**

- **Heath Dept. Review:**

Rebecca Jurczyk: 17 Active Covid 19 cases, with 6 cases all in one household about to come off of quarantine. In the last 14 days, the case load in Berkshire County was 301 cases. The Public Health Nurse says we are on a downward trend and a spike from Labor Day has not happened. The meeting today is to discuss safety standards and policies.

Ruby Chang: Make sure we identify the level of risk. When we use categories we need to identify what they are so we know where we are locally.

Rebecca Jurczyk: All of Massachusetts is in the red, high community transmission according to the CDC.

Peter Stanton: Labor Day conclusion is quick to say it's a trend.

- **Public Health Advisory: Masking while indoors in Public Settings (Discussion/ Vote).**

Rebecca Jurczyk: We are meeting tonight to review amendments to our current public health advisory. Our surrounding communities: Lee, Lenox, Stockbridge, and Egremont have recently passed a Town Wide Directive declaring a requirement for Masks and Face Coverings in all indoor public spaces. We often approach our own policies with the intention of obtaining consistency with surrounding communities so I revised the language of the Directive tailoring it to Great Barrington, should you decide to take this route.

Michael Lanoue: It's important to explain the difference between Directive and Advisory.

Rebecca Jurczyk: Directive is a step below a Mandate, and a step above Advisory which we currently have. The ownership of this is on the businesses, not the Board of Health.

Michael Lanoue: As of last week we were all comfortable with updating the Advisory.

(Read through updated Advisory).

Ruby Chang: Can we add in Social Distancing, including outside?

Rebecca Jurczyk: Business perspective is that requiring social distancing may hinder a business as it would limit numbers of people allowed. Business owners are encouraged to meet with us. We wanted to keep it broad as far as social distancing is advised.

Ruby Chang: Social distancing can be passive and the Delta Variant is highly transmissible. Word it as a reminder in the Advisory, along with handwashing and wiping down surfaces.

Michael Lanoue: May add this at the end of the Advisory. All these recommendations are equally important.

Rebecca Jurczyk: Read through Advisory again with these additions, including while dining and/or unmasked.

Signage templates were developed by the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards. If we move forward we are planning on moving forward with utilizing the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards and tailoring them to Great Barrington. Things will change monthly and we should leave this as a standing Agenda item.

Michael Lanoue: Happy with updated Advisory language.

Rebecca Jurczyk: Will send out through the same channels and hopeful it will reach everyone it needs to.

Michael Lanoue: Take effect immediately.

Peter Stanton: Suggest we see if the citizens want to comment and close the meeting with finalizing it.

Dana Fischer, 84 Cottage Street: Statement should mention vaccination. Inconsistency between vaccinated and unvaccinated guidelines.

Dettotria Haynes, Great Barrington: This meeting is about masking.

Michael Lanoue: Take a vote on updated advisory.

**Peter Stanton:** I motion to update the Advisory.

**Second:** Ruby Chang

**Vote:** 3-0

**C. BOARD OF HEALTH QUESTIONS/ UPDATES:** None

**D. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:**

- Dena Fischer, 84 Cottage Street: Would like topic of Vaccine Mandates on next Agenda.  
Michael Lanoue: We would like to look into this before adding it to the Agenda. Will take this under advisement.  
Rebecca Jurczyk: We are consistent with surrounding communities.  
Dettotria Haynes, Great Barrington: Reviewed his written memo that he submitted to the Board September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at approximately 4:30pm; one half hour before the Board Meeting began. This memo addresses effects of individual masking in schools.  
Ruby Chang: Not enough time to review this in detail. Not sure there are enough studies. Unless we have specific data we need to be careful with how we present this information. We can make better decisions when we have more studies and information.  
Michael Lanoue: Would like more time to review.  
Ed Abrams: Would like the Board to review more so there is no misinformation put out.  
Michael Lanoue: We don't want to put out false information.  
Cardinal Vaxon, Housatonic: Is the Board welcoming studies on young children and masking?  
Rebecca Jurczyk: Can send this information to Health Agent.  
Carol McGlinchey: Commends the Board, and lets be kind.  
Dettotria Haynes, Great Barrington: This is important, the Board is not to present as experts. Consider a neutral third facilitator for wider input.  
Michael Lanoue: No other comments.

**E. MEDIA QUESTIONS:** None

**F. ADJOURNMENT:** (Roll Call Vote) 3-0

Approved 10/7/21  
