

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes**  
**Great Barrington, Massachusetts**  
**Via Zoom**  
**January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**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) 6:40 pm**

**B. HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATES:**

**Community Covid-19 Update.**

96 Cases in December. Monday, January 3, 2022 = 15 Active cases thus far in January.

Health Agent Rebecca Jurczyk reviewed changes in the quarantine guidance: On December 27<sup>th</sup> the CDC changed the quarantine guidance and shortly thereafter the MA Dept. of Public Health adopted these guidelines. They are up on our website if anyone is looking to reference them. The highlights are: if positive, quarantine is shortened to 5 days and finishing out the remaining 5 days with a strict mask usage. So 10 days total. For close contacts, you are not considered a close contact if you have been boosted. Otherwise, consider yourself a close contact and quarantine for 5 days getting a test on day 5. Some questions we have received: If a member of the household develops symptoms and tests positive, while the other household members remain healthy when do they start counting 5 days from? The date of potential exposure, the date of symptom onset, or the positive test result.

It has become problematic to get a test. At home antigen tests are very difficult to find. The Testing centers are 2 to 3 days out for an appointment. They will be increasing the hours at the testing center in Great Barrington.

PPE Update: Great Barrington Health department has been storing PPE issued by Western Massachusetts MEMA to be distributed throughout Berkshire County starting next week.

Also discussed was the free antigen tests that were distributed throughout Great Barrington, specifically to entities that service low income families.

Nan Whiles: Name and address needs to be documented when citizens speak.

**C. HOUSING PUBLIC HEARING:**

Health Agent Rebecca Jurczyk reviewed corrections Ms. McCallister has made to the Correction Order.

Cynthia McCallister, 52 River Street, Great Barrington. Discussed the corrections she had completed and other work the handyman has completed to date.

Unit 2: Tennant Kathleen Jackson spoke about appeal, and referred to her Attorney to speak. Attorney Feldman spoke about course of Citations, time frame to fix, and the appeal. Repairs are part of the normal course of action, not the appeal.

Health Agent Rebecca Jurczyk responded to Ms. Jackson's Attorney.

Chair Michael Lanoue added his thoughts from a follow up inspection he was in attendance for at the residence being discussed.

Unit 1: Motion to rescind the correction order on Unit 1 as it is no longer occupied with the contingency that if the owner agrees to contact the Health Department and make the necessary corrections should she decide to rent the unit again.

Cynthia McCallister let it be known that she has no intention of renting this unit, ever. Unit one is no longer an apartment as walls have been knocked down and she is residing there. Cynthia also agreed to write a letter to this effect, to the Health Department.

Chair Michael Lanoue recommended continuing the public hearing and we can go through the motions at the next meeting.

- Peter Stanton: Motion to close the Public Hearing
- Ruby Chang: Second
- Michael Lanoue: In agreement
- (Roll Call Vote) **3-0**
  
- Peter Stanton: Motion to rescind the violation relating to the back deck:
- Ruby Chang: Second
- Michael Lanoue: In agreement
- (Roll Call Vote) **3-0**
  
- Peter Stanton: Motion to rescind the correction order for Unit 1 pending a letter received from the owner stating she will no longer rent:
- Ruby Chang: Second
- Michael Lanoue: In agreement
- (Roll Call Vote) **3-0**

**D. BHRSD LETTER TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH:**

Peter Dillon, Superintendent of BHRSD, Stockbridge: Requesting a decision from the Local Board of Health on implementing a policy on the COVID-19 Vaccination for School aged children. Would like the Board of Health to add the Covid Vaccine to the list of required vaccinations for children. If not a mandate, a stronger encouragement would be appreciated. Also discussed were rates of Covid infections in schools, CDC recommended rates, and positive rates in the county.

Staff Vaccination rate is 99.6 %, Student Vaccination rate for grades 7-12 is 85%,

The school district is looking for a statement from the Board of Health, if not a mandate, with strong encouragement to vaccinate and mask.

Discussion continued amongst Board members and Peter Dillon about vaccines. Side effects of vaccines, and spread among vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. Board member Dr. Ruby Chang discussed her professional experiences dealing with the Covid Vaccination and Children in school. It's very important that we don't give false information. Vaccines do work well. Recommends not having a mandate, avoid information that has not been true. Recommend very strong language recommending the Vaccine.

Health Agent Rebecca Jurczyk suggested how to move forward with a response to the Berkshire Regional School District's letter to the Board.

Ann Hutchinson, 2 Lake Avenue, Great Barrington: Discussed her personal experience and thoughts on vaccinating. We should encourage anything that can help parents make good decisions.

Camilla, Lakeville Ct., Speaking as a parent and as someone who knows a 13 year old who was severely damaged after getting vaccinated. Decision should be made by parents who have sought medical advice.

Rebecca Gold, 1 Barrington Place, Great Barrington, Disagree with comments made by a Board Member. Covid has wreaked havoc on the population. We should add the Covid vaccine to required vaccines.

Cardinal Olson, West Stockbridge, Ask that we stop calling these vaccines when they are MRNA gene technology. Can't mandate this.

Barbara Coffee, Lynn, Shots are experimental. Speaking in opposition of any mandate. Individuals should make this decision.

Peter Dillon, Should limit speak time to townspeople and people with kids in local school system.

Steve Bannon, 19 Fairview Terrace, Great Barrington, Comments referencing Peter Dillon and his duties with the School Department. Requested we don't wait another month to take a vote. Also requested we keep remarks to people who have a relationship to our school district.

Maureen Christie, Andover, The best decision is for parents to make the decisions.

Kathy Reagan, Grove Street, Housatonic, questioned Board Member Ruby Chang.

Mr. Haines, 220 North Plain Road, Great Barrington, Shared his thoughts on vaccines. Referred to a letter he wrote in September, 2021 to Board of Health. He recommends careful considerations of mandates.

William Fields, 209 Cottage St., Housatonic, Believes that the Board's stand on this matter is extremely important.

Dr. Joseph Cooney, West Avenue, Great Barrington, School Committee should make note that Dr. Chang does not agree with a mandate. As a Physician, he does not support a mandate. This is not a childhood disease. School Committee should here the positions of the two Physicians that have spoken. Due to the time constraints of this meeting the Board Chair Michael Lanoue recommended we



continue this to another special meeting. Vice chair Peter Stanton suggested that a Board Member write a recommendation.

Dr. Ruby Chang: The Board agrees not to do a mandate. Also, parents should educate themselves before making a decision. We need to make a statement as soon as possible. Dr. Chang requested that the Health Agent draft a response to BHRSD.

The Board agreed to meet Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to continue this topic.

E. **PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY:** Continued to January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022

F. **AMENDING FEE SCHEDULE TO INCLUDE LATE FEES:** Continued to January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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

H. **CITIZEN SPEAK TIME:**


Kevin Mackey, Questioned the new Zoom format. Health Agent Rebecca Jurczyk explained the new Webinar format.

Mr. Haines, 220 North Plain Road, Great Barrington, Wondering if they will stop the Mask Punishment in Schools.

I. **MEDIA QUESTIONS:** None

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

Respectfully submitted:



Ned Saviski  
Health Inspector