

Board of Health Special Meeting Minutes
Great Barrington, Massachusetts
Via Zoom
January 11th, 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) 6:36 pm

Dena Fischer, Resident: Questioned the new Webinar Approach to the Board of Health meetings. Health Agent Rebecca Jurczyk described why the new format has been instituted.

B. HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATES:

Community Covid-19 Update.

111 active cases this week. The Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative has been organizing pop up clinics. The dates are listed on the Town Website and Facebook page. Dr. Ruby Chang discussed the different types of testing and instructions on how to correctly obtain a sample.

C. BHRSD LETTER TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH:

Requesting a decision from the Local Board of Health on implementing a policy on the COVID-19 Vaccination for School aged children. Continued from January 6th meeting.

Health Agent Rebecca Jurczyk presented the Board with a draft letter response to the Berkshire Hills Regional School District (BHRSD).

The Board discussed in detail their thoughts on editing and additions to the above mentioned draft.

Dena Fischer, 84 Cottage Street, commented on medical treatment and vaccination, prevention and the risk of death.

Mr. Haines, 220 North Plain Road, commented on previous speakers comments. Read a letter by concerned citizens.

Lisa Bomgar, Cheshire, Suggested improved diet and lifestyle education as an alternative.

Cardinal, Stockbridge, Questioned the urgency of sending this letter. Also questioned how many of the cases are variants and other statistics of positive cases. Health Agent Rebecca Jurczyk responded and clarified data.

Kevin Reagan, Housatonic, questioned the Board about Covid Shots not preventing or stopping the spread. Board member Dr. Ruby Chang responded.

Lisa Bomgar, Cheshire, Quoted a CDC report on PCR Tests.

Donna, Great Barrington, discussed acquaintances that had issues after getting the vaccine.

Kathy Reagan, Housatonic, Where will the letter be displayed? Chair Michael Lanoue responded.

George Steinburg, Prospect Street, Commented on wording of letter.

Board member further discussed wording and made changes to the letter to the BHRSD.

- Peter Stanton: Motion to send the letter as is after edits to the School Committee:
- Ruby Chang: Second
- Michael Lanoue: In agreement
- (Roll Call Vote) 3-0

D. PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY: Continues from January 6th, 2022

Recurring Agenda Item

Discussion among the Board about updating the current advisory. Changes to the advisory include language such as types of masks, travelling, testing and local testing sites.

The advisory was updated.

- Peter Stanton: Motion to amend our current Advisory:
- Ruby Chang: Second
- Michael Lanoue: In agreement
- (Roll Call Vote) **3-0**

E. AMENDING FEE SCHEDULE TO INCLUDE LATE FEES: Continued from January 6th, 2022
Health Agent Rebecca Jurczyk discussed the permitting process, deadlines and neighboring towns late fee policies.

Eileen, Great Barrington, Questioned when late fees are imposed.

- Peter Stanton: Motion to implement new late fee plan as described by Health Agent Rebecca Jurczyk
- Ruby Chang: Second
- Michael Lanoue: In agreement
- (Roll Call Vote) **3-0**

F. BOARD OF HEALTH QUESTIONS/ UPDATES:

Health Agent Rebecca Jurczyk explained the chat function and direct messaging feature on zoom violates the Open Meeting Law, and why we are not using them. Further discussion amongst the Board members about Zoom and Webinar functions.

G. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME: None

H. MEDIA QUESTIONS: None

I. ADJOURNMENT: (Roll Call Vote) **3-0** 9:30 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Ned Saviski
Health Inspector

