

# Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

## October 27, 2020

Attendees: Carol Bradford – BoH Chair, Linda Huet-Clayton BoH Member, Susan Sama -BoH Member, Bill Murphy – Health Director, Bethany Hadvab – Social Worker, Beth Porter – Health Administrator, Kay Bell – Comm on Disability, Janie Dretler – Select Board Chair, Jennifer Roberts – Select Board Member, Susan Berry – Finance Committee, Bella Wong – LSRHS Superintendent, Ellie Gottlieb, Charles Russo, Nell Sorgas, Maia Proujansky

Meeting convened at 4:01 PM.

### **Public Comment:**

Maia Proujansky 38 Lakewood Dr. was contacted by SPS about her child who is in a cohort with a child that was tested positive for COVID 19. The teacher is quarantining. Her son sits next to the child that tested positive and Maia was confused as to why the cohort has not been asked to quarantine. Mr. Murphy said that someone will contact her to get more details. Carol Bradford stated current protocol indicates that if the teacher confirms that students were social distancing and wearing masks than protocol was followed.

Jennifer Roberts: Attended the Town Wide Drive Thru Flu Clinic and commended the Health Department for how well the clinic was run and recognized the amount of hard work that went into the endeavor.

### **Public Health Nurse Report: Presented By Bill Murphy:**

**COVID Stats:** 74 Active Contacts: 10 Positives: 3 Probables: 3 Clusters at LSRHS: 1 Cluster at the Middle School: 1 Long term care case: 1 Sudbury workplace case.

**COVID Reporting:** The state has moved weekly COVID reporting from Wednesdays to Thursdays. Sudbury's weekly report will also be released on Friday's including regional data.

**COVID Case load** for nurses went from manageable to exceeding capacity in a two week period. The school cases with significant amount of contacts required the nurses to utilize the CTC (Community Tracing Collaborative).

**Sudbury continues** to see an increase in COVID cases. The community has progressed from a grey, to a green, to a yellow community. If momentum continues in this direction, Sudbury will soon be a red, the highest level of cases per 100,000 residents.

**Flu Clinic:** Was extremely successful. Planning and execution results in high marks by a State evaluator and is being used as a local model.

### **Bella Wong: LSRHS Superintendent:**

**Nurses** at the schools and Health Department were commended by Ms. Wong.

**Switch to Remote learning** from 11/23/20 to 12/7/2020. The kids will only be out of the classroom 6.5 scheduled classroom days. She is looking for support from the Board of Health. Arguments to support this decision are:

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### **Bella Wong: LSRHS Superintendent Cont....:**

#### **Switch to Remote learning Continued:**

1. COVID positive cases are trending upward.;
2. Parties are continuing with many students not following protocol. Returning college students and large unmanaged gatherings creates risk;
3. COVID testing around the holidays may be delayed;
4. Students are may risk attending school while symptomatic to avoid falling behind;
5. Positive students attended SAT testing.

**Sama agrees** that a switch to remote learning makes sound public health sense.

**Huet-Clayton** feels that the switching decisions needs to be fluid and based on current data.

Motion by Sama to support Bella Wong's decision, seconded by Huet-Clayton. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Bethany Hadvab: Social Worker Report:**

**There have been exponential increases in need** and each case is becoming increasingly complicated. It is taking 3 – 5 business days to get back to people in need.

**Some cases** have been taking up more time. Serious cases of domestic violence take more resources. A homeless mother with an infant needing resources is prioritized.

**Resources are overloaded:** Agencies that support the community will not have the resources to continue to provide the community with programs that many residents rely on. There is an increase in need and a decrease in resources.

**Therapy Group:** The Social Worker's Office has begun a non-clinical therapy group of 12 people that can vent and possibly get resolution by hearing others share how they are struggling with the complications of COVID.

**Jane Dretler** asked Bethany to identify areas of highest need. Her response was financial needs, homelessness, winter clothing, job loss, domestic violence, and mental health. Families and seniors are the demographic in most need.

**Community Impact Survey:** Residents are asked to fill out a survey in order for state to allocate funds to residents in the community.

**Huet-Clayton** expressed concern for when Bethany becomes overwhelmed. Access to resources and inequities grow larger as time goes on.

**Kay Bell:** mentioned that there is a disconnect between supply and needs.

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**Mr Murphy:** noted that Mitch Sanborn (part time Senior Outreach Specialist) works 8 hours per week with a case load of 20 people. He has been working with them to re-establish services and once these cases are stable he reduces his time and support. Mitch was commended for his service.

**Church programs provided to residents:** Bethany has been approached by some of the local churches to facilitate programs that the churches are offering to those in need, but she is finding it challenging to maintain as a go between.

### **Bill Murphy: Health Director – Update:**

**Hiring of Health Inspector:** Bill is currently in the process of securing a potential inspector by January. Onboarding development of a health and safety training manual and having the new inspector trained in OSHA compliance.

**Travel Advisory:** To be written and published for the holidays. Carol Bradford said that there is a document that the schools have sent out that should help in drafting an advisory.

**Septic/Wells:** Septic plan reviews, repairs, and Title 5 inspections continue to increase and also well applications due to the drought.

### **Sudbury Crossing Proposed New Septic System – Seeks Board’s approval – Innovative Septic System:**

**Presenters:** Tony Haslinger, Gary Rubenstein and Greg Clough- Philips Edison (Owners), Quinn Gadow and Pio Lombardo – Environmental Engineers for Pio Lombardo Associates, Vincent Roy – Director Sudbury Water District.

**Presentation:** Tony Haslinger of Sudbury Crossing began by describing the situation. They are losing tenants and only have limited septic capacity for retail and office space. In an attempt to accommodate a wider range of tenants, they wish to increase the septic flow to accommodate establishments such as schools, medical, dental, spas, and restaurants. These types of businesses would not be currently allowed. Philips Edison is proposing installing an Innovative Alternative septic treatment facility that reduces nitrogen. The Nitrex system designed by Pio Lombardo Associates is a low maintenance system, highly reliable, and proven technology. It will be monitored monthly for the first 2 years. The life expectancy of the components are 40 years. Pio Lombardo will contractually monitor the system for the first year. Sama emphasized the importance of operation and maintenance oversight.

**Location of Sudbury Crossing** is in Aquafer Zone II and positioned near one of Sudbury Water District’s wells. This type of system would reduce the potency of the effluent and improve waste water quality for the well. Vincent Roy from the Sudbury Water District supports the installation largely for the water quality improvements by the treatment facility.

**Mr. Murphy** informed the Board that there is little downside to the application. He notes that in the long run there will be economic advantages and cleaner effluent.

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**Approval needed:** The applicant must obtain approval from the local Board of Health prior to applying to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection for Piloting Approval Use of the Nitrex System.

**Carol Bradford motioned** to support the application with a condition that DEP approval is obtained. Motion seconded by Sama. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**Carol Bradford motioned** for Bill Murphy to draft and sign approval letter for this application. Motion seconded by Huet-Clayton. Motion passed 3-0-0.

### Other Health Business:

**Finance Committee:** COVID Cares Funding will end in December. Fincom has been speaking with the Town Manager about continuing funding into the 2021 calendar year. They are currently determining what areas will have the greatest need.

**Susan Berry** – Finance Committee liaison: asked Bethany Hadvab about the interns that are currently working with her. Bethany said that they are a great help in absorbing some of the workload and there is no associated cost with their internship, however there are requirements that Bethany must meet in order to retain them and it can be extremely time consuming.

### Next Meetings: November 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Susan Sama motioned** to approve minutes for October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as edited. Carol Bradford seconded the motion. Passed 3-0-0.

**Schools:** Linda Huet-Clayton expressed that thought should be given to spacing kids further than 6 feet apart. Mr. Murphy noted that DESE standards and guidelines are constantly evolving and changing. The Health Department and BoH will continue to follow the guidelines. Sama notes that the board is not in a position to make rules and policies, but they certainly empathize with the frustration that COVID imposes on Sudbury residents. Sama also stated that with COVID positives trending up in school age kids and remote learning becomes more critical.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM