

Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

August 24th, 2021

Attendees: Carol Bradford – Board Chair, Linda Huet-Clayton - Board Member, Susan Sama – Board Member, Bill Murphy – Health Director, Patty Moran – Public Health Nurse, Robert Lazo – Health Inspector, Beth Porter – Health Admin, Janie Dretler – Select Board, Jen Roberts – Select Board, Pio Lombardo – Sudbury Crossing Engineer, Tony Haslinger – Phillip Edison, Mike Schmitt – Phillip Edison, Stephanie Kuster – Sudbury Resident Kay Bell – Disabilities Commission, Maia Projansky-Bell.

Meeting commenced at 4:00 PM

Public Comment – None

Bear Mountain Long Term Care Facility: On August 20th large quantities of water breached the roof of the facility sustaining enough damage to cause a full evacuation of it's residents. The facility will remain closed until all repairs have been made and further inspections deem it inhabitable. Tim Choate, Sudbury Assistant Fire Chief, engaged MEMA to evacuate the residents in an organized and orderly fashion. MEMA will follow up on the progression of facility repairs to ensure that state and federal compliances are met. Bill Murphy commended Tim Choate's decisive and immediate action under such difficult circumstances.

Sudbury Crossing:

Discussion Continued from August 10, BoH Meeting for new owners to expand current septic system – seeking pilot design approval from the DEP and Sudbury Health Department.

Peer Review by Horsely and Witten – has brought up 2 outstanding items which have been resolved. Phillip Edison is seeking final approval less than 2 inches a minute means that the ground water must be 5 feet from the surface.

Tony Haslinger changed direction of storm water run off to the north side of the property. The system will reduce nitrogen absorption into the soil by 80%

Variances – are being sought by many installers for cleaner functioning septic systems. Because the Variances meet the objective of cleaner ground water, the variiances are generally granted.

Stephanie Kuster: Abutter to Sudbury Crossing voiced concerns about the Pilot design of the septic system. Who was ultimately responsible for any septic failures and how does the expanded system effect abutters opportunities to expand their own septic? Tony Haslinger and Pio Lombardo addressed Ms. Kuster's concerns. The septic design is far superior to the current system in terms of cleaner ground water. Septic failures will be caught immediately by monitoring and testing weekly. Tony Haslinger will be the point of contact for any problems that abutters may have. The plantings that will be used in the final landscaping will assist in mitigating Ground water runoff in the direction of the abutters.

VOTE: Carol Bradford Motioned to grant Variance request to Phillip Edison for Section 8 reduction of Ground water to septic design. Linda Huet-Clayton seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

VOTE: Carol Bradford Motioned to approve Nitrics Septic Expansion Project to go to the Department of Environmental Protection for their approval. Linda Huet-Clayton seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

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Mosquito Control: Bi-weekly testing continues. The last testing cycle found a reduction in the overall mosquito population. There have been no mosquitos identified with Eastern Equine Encephylitis (EEE). West Nile Virus has been found in samples in Lincoln. Testing turnaround time has improved.

Patty Moran – Public Health Nurse Update:

COVID: Cases have been rising the past few months. 13 cases and 1 cluster. The state has reported that one half of new cases are the Delta Variant. Challenges that we will face in the fall (return to school) is pulling back the freedoms that the students have experienced over the summer months. indoor Masking will be required in the schools. School nurses will be challenged with efforts in contact tracing. Most cases will be from family spread.

COVID Contact Tracing: Once the state lifted restrictions, residents became less responsive to communicating with the Health Department. They don't return calls, not disclosing Close Contacts and are less cooperative. There are less cases, but more time is spent on investigating. Susan Sama noted that there is a duration of quarantining due to follow-up testing. Break Thru cases will be a challenge. Linda Heut-Clayton has concerns for children ages 1 – 12 who are not vaccinated.

Flu Clinics: will be a challenge to staff and volunteers until everyone is familiar with the new state platform COLOR used for scheduling, administering, inventorying, reimbursing and reporting vaccines.

COVID Vaccines: The Health Dept. does not have the resources to conduct Booster Clinics at this time.

Debra Galloway Sudbury Senior Center Director:

In Person Programs: Debra is concerned that many Seniors feel comfortable at home participating virtually. She stressed the importance of Seniors getting out and moving around and being around others. Deb asked the Board and Health Department to weigh in on how to approach in person programs for seniors. Is it safe to return to these programs? Susan Sama felt that COVID booster shots, masks KN95's and N95's, outside activities, small groups and HEPA filtration (portable units) would be a safe approach to conducting indoor programs.

Face Covering Advisory upgraded to Face Covering Mandate:

The Sudbury Face Covering Advisory was put into place 2 weeks ago. Do we look into mandating? Challenges would be, resistance and enforcement. Susan Sama is concerned about the additional amount of work that would affect the already burdened Health Department. Huet-Clayton felt that schools should have the mandate in place (which they do) but is unsure about a town wide indoor mandate. All feel that the population aged 12 years old and younger are the most vulnerable. With schools opening, there will sports and activities that will create clusters.

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VOTE: Carol Bradford motioned to upgrade Face Covering Advisory and to Face Covering Mandate – effective September 1, 2021 (to coincide with schools opening) with an option to update/change Mandate verbiage at future meetings. Linda Huet-Clayton seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

SCHOOL Opening Update:

Testing: SPS will test **Symptomatic** students and send home.

Test and Stay: The SPS schools will test and if **asymptomatic** students test positive, they will be allowed to attend school but outside activities will not be allowed. Maia Projansky-Bell expressed concern to this approach putting other students at risk of contracting COVID. What is the science behind this decision? Jen Roberts asked if there were any plans for school vaccination Clinics?

Pool Testing at SPS: If asymptomatic and have a negative test, kids can come to school but no other outside school activities. Consent forms are worded to cover all scenarios – Daily, or weekly. Testing cannot be mandated. Last June, 90% of students were participating.

CIC Health has offered to staff and conduct weekly tests in schools. Daily testing of positives will prove to be a challenge for the school nurses. Sama Likes that some of the work load can be taken from the school nurses and the Board of Health nurses.

Other:

Town Employee Vaccination Mandate: Janie Dretler (Select Board) asked if there are any plans to mandate COVID Vaccinations for Town Employees. This would be a question for Town Management.

VOTE: Carol Bradford Motioned to approve minutes as edited for the July 20th and August 10th 2021 Board of Heath Meetings. Motion seconded by Linda Huet-Clayton. Motion Passed 3-0-0.

Susan Sama forwarded a PPE pamphlet to the Health Department, which in turn has been forwarded to many agencies. Many websites have published it her pamphlet. It has received positive feedback.

Meeting adjourned at 5:59 PM.