

Sudbury Board of Health

Minutes

Virtual Meeting 4/12/2022

ATTENDEES: Carol Bradford-Board Chair, Linda Huet-Clayton-Board Member, Susan Sama-Board Member, Bill Murphy-Health Director, Patty Moran-Health Nurse, Bethany Hadvab-Social Worker, Beth Porter-Admin, Kelli Calo-Shared Services Grant Coordinator, Scott Brody-Camp Sewataro, Emmy Niinimaki-Camp Sewataro, Dominic Meringolo-Solitude, Jen Roberts and Janie Dretler-Select Board, Kay Bell-Commission on Disabilities, Patricia Lewis-Council on Aging, Al Miller-Resident, Richie Miller-Resident, Nell Forgacs-Resident

4:00 PM Meeting called to order – Carol Bradford opens with meeting rules and format

Open Comment – None

Motion: Susan Sama motioned to approve minutes as edited. Carol Bradford seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Motion: Linda Huet-Clayton motioned to approve the nominations of Animal Inspectors Jen Condon, Sarah Macone and Donna DeWallace. Susan Sama seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Kelli Calo Shared Services Grant Coordinator introduced herself to the Board members. Kelli is in the process of launching the grant. This would include hiring and purchases. Ms. Calo is holding weekly meetings with the participants.

Bill Murphy and Kelli are in the process of interviewing full and part-time nurses and a health inspector.

Camp Sewataro:

Discussion about treatment used in manmade pond to prevent bathers from being exposed to harmful algae and agents. Scott Brody (Camp Director/Owner) has been tasked to find a solution. Scott has partnered with Dominic Meringolo, a consultant with Solitude aquatic management company, to find the best approach to treating the pond during summer camp season.

In the past the upper manmade swimming pond was treated with chlorine. It was stated that only ½ of the chlorine that would normally be used to treat a pond of that size had been applied. The upper pond drains down to a lower recreational pond which feeds Pantry Brook. The Department of Environmental Protection is prohibiting the use of chlorine as a disinfectant and the use of algaecides are being proposed. Concerns of disruption of the the natural ecosystem is being vetted by the Conservation Commission. Exposure to algaecides and human health is being reviewed by the Health Department in consultation with DPH.

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Camp Sewataro Continued:

Testing: Testing for agents in the upper pond will give Solitude a baseline moving forward. The upper and lower pond will no longer be conjoined. E.coli and Nitrogen are currently the baseline tests that are and will be conducted on the upper pond.

Treatments: Aeration will be the first approach. The water will be tested and monitored to see the effects of this treatment. Should additional treatments be required, based on test results, new agents will be introduced and closely monitored. Linda Huet-Clayton inquired as to how often the pond will be tested and what are the metrics used to determine harmful swimming conditions (post treatment). Concerns about Cyanobacteria and other bacterial toxins that have bloomed in other bodies of water in the area were expressed. Water clarity and preventing algae blooms will be the biggest challenge for Sewataro and Solitude. Mr. Meringolo and Mr. Brody will work closely getting the water prepared before the start of camp. The overall objectives are public health and safety and an environmentally stable body of water.

Susan Sama asked what is the metric to close the pond to swimmers? 70,000 cyanobacteria cells per millimeter of water is the metric. Treatment will begin at 10,000-20,000 cells per millimeter.

Bill Murphy is looking for information from DEP and DPH about other bathing beaches, similar to Sewataro, that uses these treatments. Mr. Murphy emphasized the need for written procedures with the camp opening a few months away.

Patty Moran – Public Health Nurse Update:

COVID: There were 125 cases of positives reported. The majority of cases were in kids 15 years and younger. Most adults are fully boosted which lowers the severity of symptoms. The first week of April has reported 56 cases of positives. 100% of the cases are the Omicron variant. Hospitalizations and deaths are extremely low. Local hospitalizations are not reported. Only statewide stats are available.

Long COVID: Project Echo has been proactive in defining what Long COVID is. There is a broad range of symptoms. Studies from the UK have raised concerns. This condition seems less prevalent in those who are boosted.

Other: Cold and flu seem to be increasing again. It's been 2 years since there has been a substantial presence in these illnesses. It's to be expected.

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Bill Murphy Health Director Update:

Town Meeting: Department Heads have been meeting to plan the safest way for residents to gather. Suggestions would be to have a mask only area separate from the general space. Masks will be offered at entrances. Distribute home tests (Health Department acquired) to those planning to attend, that would be taken the night before the Town Meeting. Positives could be identified to reduce risk by staying home. The moderator is assessing best methods to run the most efficient meeting. Positivity and incidence rates will be assessed up until the start of Town Meeting and adjustments may be made.

Rapid Test Kits: Would like to distribute to Senior Center, Town Meeting or before, Food Pantry and Metro West Clinic.

Health Inspector Rob Lazo: Is attending an 8 week Soil Evaluation Class. He has completed Pool Operator Certification. Rob continues to review septic plans, inspect septic repairs and installations and issue Certificates of Compliance. He is also reviewing well installation plans.

Bethany Hadvab – Social Worker Update:

Interns are working with housing and financially insecure residents. Grant funds are being used to help those in need.

Residents Adopting Pets: During years of isolation many residents adopted pets for companionship. Many of these residents were unaware of the costs associated with owning a pet. Donations are being made in the form of pet food and gift cards to be distributed by the food pantry and other organizations that support those who are now financially burdened with the costs of pet ownership. Many are grateful for the help.

Staffing: Bethany needs to fill 2 summer positions and 5 intern positions this fall. A new 2 year intern has been hired and will start work in the fall.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Susan Sama. Carol Bradford seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:34 PM.