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Inspection Services
41 Elm Street

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE

March 10, 2022 6:00 pm VIRTUAL BOH MEETING

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TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE
2022 APR 14 PM 6:47
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Agenda #1- Open Meeting- 6:02pm

Agenda #2- Roll Call

E. Stephens *Elizabeth Stephens*

N. Duffey *N. Duffey*

A. Postale- Excused

D. Grabowski *Daniel Grabowski*

Agenda #3- Accept Meeting Minutes

a. February 10, 2022- Motion to accept the meeting minutes of February 10, 2022 made by D. Grabowski; 2nd by N. Duffey:

Roll Call

D. Grabowski- yes

E. Stephens-yes

N. Duffey-yes

Motion passes 3-1 excused (Postale).

Agenda #4- COVID Update

a. Discuss current status and act on anything thereto- A. Pelletier begins providing the recent COVID statistics from the last 14 days stating there were 17 positive cases out of 1015 persons who tested thus showing a positivity rate of 1.7. According to the States color coded system, Southbridge is in "green" status and moving in right direction. In addition, the vaccination rate is currently at a 65%.

A. Pelletier requests the Board revisit their strong recommendation to wear masks while indoors in places accessible to the public. This is due to the following:

* CDC declaring the State as low risk communities (exception Hampton county) and suggest NO masks including in the schools.

* DESE declaring it to be a local decision as of February 28th

* Town Council decided that masks shall no longer be mandated in any municipal buildings;

* AND since the Sbdge Public Schools has been very in-tune with the Board of Health, they have asked for the Board to rule on their strong recommendation to wear masks in schools. However, DPH continues recommending that masks be worn indoors if you're at an increased risk/compromised immune system.

Chair Stephens states the COVID counts have gone down and it should be left up to the schools to decide.

A. Pelletier explains the Board made a strong recommendation to give it two weeks following February vacation and Dr. Villar agreed. However, with the recent numbers, Dr. Villar inquired if the Board would be discussing this tonight, he is seeking guidance.

Member Duffey questions if the schools voted on keeping their masks on while indoors until the end of March?

A. Pelletier reiterates the Board recommended that schools give it two weeks following vacation and we are at the two-week mark.

Brief discussion. A. Pelletier requests clarity on the final outcome of the discussion because he will need to prepare a response letter. Is the Board voting to change the original recommendation; to extend to the 31st or keep it as status quo?

Consensus of the Board: The Board is extending their advisory until the end of the month.

b. Discuss future meeting Remote vs In-person- A. Pelletier explains the Town Council determined that there will be no more hybrid meetings. Meetings will be held remote or in-person. A. Pelletier asks Chair Stephens as well as board members whether remote or in-person for future meetings?

Member Grabowski states either or.

Chair Stephens announces member Postale has reached out and is fine with in-person meetings.

Member Duffey agrees with in-person meetings.

A. Pelletier explains based on the previous discussion the in-person meeting will be with masks on until the Board lifts the "masks while in-doors". Board agrees.

c. Vaccine Clinic Update- A. Pelletier reports at the February 19th clinic there were 200 available slots for vaccines, only 60 slots were filled. Explains there appears to be no interest for vaccines and this should be the final one. A. Pelletier requests the Board's thoughts/directive. Chair Stephens states everything is winding down including the hospital. Board agrees with final clinic.

Agenda #5-Citizens Forum- None

Agenda #6- New Business- None

At this time, member Duffey expresses concerns regarding cars blaring music and with the warm weather approaching if there is anything that can be advised or anything that can be done about the volume limits? A. Pelletier explains the Town has a noise ordinance and it is enforced by the Police Department. A. Pelletier continues to explain that although it can be declared as a public health nuisance, a disruption of your right to enjoy life, the department does not have the means to stop them. The best place for enforcement is with the Police Department. Member Duffey requests to discuss this topic in the future. Chair Stephens also explains this is an issue every year and understands the Police does not like issue tickets because it is unenforceable. A. Pelletier agrees to speak with member Duffey for ideas on how to handle loud music.

Agenda #7-Old Business

a. Beautify Southbridge- A. Pelletier announces Beautify Southbridge is scheduled for May 14 8:30am-Noon. We will begin to advertise mid-April. The flyer will be posted on Facebook and various social media sites. We also have a couple of groups that we will reach out to see if there is any interest.

b. Blight-

215 Hamilton St- A. Pelletier states the property file is being reviewed by an Attorney. The department will be preparing all the exhibits to be provided to the Attorney who will file the case in court.

20 Brick Row- This property was declared unfit for human habitation because of a tree through the roof and is progressively getting worse. The property has been secured. This property will be ordered to be removed under 105 CMR. The order to demolish will be provided the all the lien holders as well.

495 South St- A. Pelletier provides update stating the bid has been awarded. We currently await certifications from the utility companies of the shut-offs. Once received we can allow the contractor to begin working on demolishing it.

A. Pelletier informs the Board a group by the of The Explorers broke into 745 Main St to film a video. The video was then posted on YouTube sparking a lot of interest. The property owners were ordered to secure it against illegal entry and failed to secure. A 2nd order to secure was prepared and mailed, owners also failed to secure. In final the Town boarded and secured this property. This property will be brought before the Attorney General for possible receivership.

Agenda #8- Chairman Announcements- No announcement however, Chair Stephens acknowledges the passing of David Williams who has served as Chair, Vice-Chair and a member of the Board of Health. She expresses condolences to his family. Member Duffey agrees and shares her sympathies.

Agenda #9- Health Director Announcements- A. Pelletier reports Southbridge now is a member of the South-Central Massachusetts Board of Health through the CMRPC grant. We are working with a shared inspector, a shared nurse and a shared epidemiologist. The shared inspector is currently working on a Regional Health Assessment. In addition, we have received the computers and are working on getting the software with hopes to get the training in a week or two.

Agenda #10- Board Members Announcements

N. Duffey- No announcements

D. Grabowski- Excited to be involved with the Board

Agenda #11- Schedule Next Meeting- April 14, 2022 in-person donning masks at 6:00pm

NOTE: A. Pelletier informs the Board he will be attending the NACCHO seminar the first week in April. This is held in Atlanta.

Agenda #12- Adjournment- Motion to adjourn made by N. Duffey; 2nd by D. Grabowski:

Roll Call

E. Stephens-yes

N. Duffey-yes

D. Grabowski-yes

Motion passes 3-1 excused (Postale). Meeting closed at 6: 41pm

Recording Clerk,

M. Santos

