

TOWN of HINGHAM BOARD OF HEALTH

Board of Health Public Meeting

February 23, 2021

A posted public meeting of the Town of Hingham, Board of Health (the Board) was held remotely by telephone as an alternate means of public access pursuant to an Order issued by the Governor of Massachusetts dated March 12, 2020 suspending certain provisions of the open meeting law.

Mr. Bickford called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Members Present

Peter Bickford, Chair

Elizabeth Eldredge, M.D., Member

Kirk Shilts, D.C., Member

Staff Present

Susan Sarni, MPH, Executive Health Officer (EHO)

Agenda

Mr. Bickford reviewed the posted agenda with the Board.

Dr. Shilts said in follow-up from the prior meeting about approving the meeting's agenda, the Board only needs to approve the agenda "as amended" when for example a New Business item is added that wasn't anticipated by the chair in the previous 48-hours. He said regular meeting activities like the approval of minutes or staff reports are assumed and the chair need only mention their presence at the start of the meeting if they weren't specifically listed.

Thereafter, the agenda was established.

Meeting Minutes

- **September 10, 2020**

Mr. Bickford reviewed the meeting minutes of September 10, 2020 with the Board.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Dr. Eldredge, seconded by Dr. Shilts and VOTED (roll call);
to approve the meeting minutes listed above as amended.

Members in favor: Bickford, Eldredge & Shilts

Members opposed: none

- **November 12, 2020**

Mr. Bickford reviewed the meeting minutes of November 12, 2020 with the Board.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Dr. Eldredge, seconded by Dr. Shilts and VOTED (roll call);
to approve the meeting minutes listed above as amended.

Members in favor: Bickford, Eldredge & Shilts

Members opposed: none

- **November 17, 2020**

Mr. Bickford reviewed the meeting minutes of November 17, 2020 with the Board.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Dr. Eldredge, seconded by Dr. Shilts and VOTED (roll call);
to approve the meeting minutes listed above as drafted.

Members in favor: Bickford, Eldredge & Shilts

Members opposed: none

- **December 3, 2020**

Mr. Bickford reviewed the meeting minutes of December 3, 2020 with the Board.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Dr. Eldredge, seconded by Dr. Shilts and VOTED (roll call);
to approve the meeting minutes listed above as amended.

Members in favor: Bickford, Eldredge & Shilts

Members opposed: none

- **January 26, 2021**

Mr. Bickford reviewed the meeting minutes of January 26, 2021 with the Board.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Dr. Shilts, seconded by Dr. Eldredge and VOTED (roll call);
to approve the meeting minutes listed above as amended.

Members in favor: Bickford, Eldredge & Shilts

Members opposed: none

EHO Report:

- **Social Worker Position & Job Description**

Ms. Sarni said our current Social Worker (Cheryl West) is retiring at the end of March. She recommended not hiring for the position until the COVID emergency has subsided. She said the job would stay at 20 hours per week.

Dr. Shilts suggested conferring with Ms. West to ask what she may recommend to the position. Ms. Sarni said she intends on having that meeting with her first, and then have her attend the next meeting.

- **COVID-19 Update**

Ms. Sarni said Hingham Public Schools may return to full-time in-person learning for grades K through 5 by the end of March. She said the lowest incidence of COVID infections are with children under 10 years old. She said evidence shows that in-person learning has not been associated with substantial community spread across the country nor have we seen it in Hingham.

Ms. Sarni said the highest risk is related to contact sports including hockey and basketball.

Ms. Sarni said mask technique plays a significant in personal protection. She said a mask must fit snugly - and that double masking (using the outer to hold the inner tighter) is very effective.

Dr. Eldredge said she would like to see personal protective equipment (PPE) distributed to teachers.

Ms. Sarni said on February 17th, MA DPH announced that local health departments will not be receiving more vaccine. She said only second doses will be provided, which Hingham is expecting.

- **Town Meeting Article on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU)**

Ms. Sarni said there is a citizens' petition Warrant Article to expand the current ADU bylaw to include detached ADUs. She said the matter will be addressed at the (Planning) Board meeting on March 1st.

Mr. Bickford suggested Board members compile their opinions and concerns for this meeting.

Dr. Shilts said the Board can update the letter it sent some years ago regarding ADUs reflecting the concerns from the current Board.

Ms. Sarni said she will follow the usual process of composing a draft based on Board member input over the next few days and have a final draft for all members to sign-off on by Monday night.

- **ANR Lot Division**
3 Home Meadows

Ms. Sarni said this property is one of the first to go through our new regulation on lot divisions. She said there hasn't been an issue thus far.

Public Comment:

none offered

Scheduling

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for the March 16th at 7:15 p.m.

Adjournment

The February 23, 2021 public meeting of the Hingham Board of Health adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Benedetto, Administrative Secretary

Documents reviewed during the Public Meeting:

- *Draft agenda for 2/23/21*
- *Draft meeting minutes for 9/10/20*
- *Draft meeting minutes for 11/12/20*
- *Draft meeting minutes for 11/17/20*
- *Draft meeting minutes for 12/3/20*
- *Draft meeting minutes for 1/26/21*
- *MA DPH vaccine letter, 2/17/21*
- *General Sports Guidance & FAQ sheet, 11/23/20*
- *CDC, Science Brief Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in K-12 Schools, 2/12/21*
- *CDC, Ventilation in Buildings, 2/9/21*
- *CDC, Percentage of Middle & High School Students Aged 13-21 Attending In-Person Classes, 2/12/21*
- *CDC, Maximum Fit for Cloth & Medical Procedure Masks, 2/19/21*
- *Social Worker Job Description, 2/12/19*
- *2021 ADU Warrant Article Citizens Petition, 11/30/20*