

Dover Board of Health COVID - 19 Meeting - March 3, 2022

Held remotely - via zoom - meeting recorded

Members present: Professor Gerald Clarke , Chairman, Dr. Stephen Kruskall; Dr. Kay Petersen

1. Meeting called to order at 9:04 am
2. Meeting Schedule;
 - A motion was made by Professor Clarke and seconded by Dr. Petersen to go forward with a bi-monthly meeting schedule. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Next COVID meetings: 3-17-2022 and 3-31-2022
 - Next BOH meeting was rescheduled to 3-8-2022
3. A motion was made by Dr. Petersen and seconded by Dr Kruskall to approve meeting minutes of: 2-17-2022 - 12-2-2021 - and 11-18-2021 as amended. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Update from Public Health Nurse Brooks:
 - The past 7 days had a total of 4 COVID cases
 - The test positivity rate continues to fall.
5. Dr. Kruskall agreed with the CDC recommendations and the new guidelines in regard to contact tracing and (Test and Treat.)
6. Professor Clarke received a notice from Tiffany Zike, Needham Public Health Nurse informing the Board that Diana Acosta is the new manager for the Shared Service Program for the Towns of Dover, Medfield and Needham
7. A discussion was held on the hiring of the Public Health Nurse:
 - Community Paradigm Associates recommends hiring a public health nurse directly and sharing the Public Health Nurse Position with another town
 - The public health nurse would help with current nursing needs, emergency response procedures, flu clinics, and new software for immunization recordings.
 - The Board agreed that the possibility of sharing the public health nurse with the Town of Sherborn could work.
 - Professor Clarke commented that the possibility of getting a SAPHE grant for the public health nurse would almost certainly be given as the two towns seem to have comparable needs, with the likeliness of their population, structures, and the ability to work efficiently together.

8. Professor Clarke informed the Board that the Planning Department is responsible for applications for energy and environmental grants. He stated that it is important for all town departments to be on the same page for these grants.
9. Dr. Kruskall had concerns that the approval by the Board of Selectmen for particular grants might not allow the Board of Health to act as an independent elected body.
10. Warrant Committee
 - Dr. Petersen spoke with the Town Administrator regarding the new Health Agent position. It will be a salaried and benefited position covered by existing funds. A one time allotted fund would be used for the training of the new Health Agent
 - The Public Health Nurse Position was also discussed. The Community Paradigm Associate report points out the need for a public health nurse.
 - Dr. Kruskall stated that the PHN would offer such attention to vaccines, third party billing and emergency preparedness programs.
 - Dr. Petersen will discuss with Janet Claypoole, Director COA possible coordination of the town's nursing needs.
11. It is recommended that Childcare Centers continue masking until 3/8 /2022. The Board will meet at this time and will review data. There are currently plenty of Rapid Antigen Tests available for childcare centers.
12. Professor Clarke requested agenda items for the 3/8/2022 meeting to be submitted today.
13. Jen Luethy, Chairman of the Swap Shop; The renovations are not on schedule. The Board is unlikely to approve the use of the space until the black mold is successfully remediated.
14. A brief discussion was held on 60 Claybrook Rd. A full discussion will take place at the Board of Health meeting on 3-8-2022 to properly review plans and permits.
15. At 11:30 am, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.