

Dover Board of Health - COVID 19 Meeting - March 17, 2022

Held remotely - via zoom - meeting recorded

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

1. Meeting called to order 9:02 am
2. Professor Clarke reported that no progress has been made on the remediation of the black mold at the swap shop.
3. Meeting Schedule:
 - Next BOH COVID meeting 3-31-2022
 - Next Board of Health meeting 4-4-2022
4. The Board discussed preparing a written job description for the future part time Public Health Nurse position for FY23.
5. The son of a resident of 3 Raleigh Rd brought a concern to the Board regarding his mother's next door neighbor's chickens that regularly come onto her property and leave their droppings. She has not yet discussed the problem with her neighbor.
 - The Board advised the resident's son that there are no town regulations that pertain to small animals such as chickens and that the Town of Dover permits agricultural activity.
 - The Board advised that she discuss the problem with her neighbor.
6. Dr. Petersen reported on her conversation with Elaine Stephens, Chief Executive Officer, Natick Walpole VNA.
 - At this time, the Town of Dover is on an annual auto-renew contract with the VNA. The VNA services provided to Dover are charged against the annual fee we pay.
 - The VNA will proceed with any services the Board requests. Examples could include blood pressure clinics, TB testing, MAVEN reporting, immunization clinics etc.
 - The VNA continues to do contact tracing as it has in the past for the Town of Dover
 - The new shared service grant with Needham and Medfield will cover the cost of 2 days a week of contact tracing.
 - The Council on Aging uses VNA services for blood pressure clinics that the BOH funds.
 - Dr. Kruskall thinks that it would be less costly for a Dover Public Health Nurse to provide BP screening for the COA.

- The Town of Dover will re-evaluate its relationship with the VNA if a Public Health Nurse is hired.
7. The Town of Sherborn is interested in the possibility of sharing a Public Health Nurse with Dover.
 8. Dr. Petersen reported that Diane Acosta, the Needham project manager for the shared services grant, is currently hiring people for the project. She's currently recruiting a second part time health agent who could oversee camp and food inspections, and possibly cover vacations for other health agents.
 9. A Motion was made by Dr. Kruskall, seconded by Dr. Petersen, to approve meeting minutes from 2-24-2022, as amended. The motion passed unanimously.
 10. Dr. Petersen gave an update from Public Health Nurse Brooks:
 - 2 COVID cases were reported in the Town of Dover last week.
 - In the past 5 days, 4 positive cases have been reported in the high school.
 - No cases were reported in the other schools.
 11. In the last week there was a slight increase in Boston area wastewater COVID testing positivity.
 12. There was discussion about the avian influenza and the role that wild flocks of birds play in transmission. The Board will discuss further at a future meeting.
 13. Dr Kruskall acknowledged that Mr. Clarke had not been renominated at this year's Town Caucus. He said that the loss of Mr. Clarke as a member of the BOH will be detrimental to the Board's functioning. Dr. Petersen noted that Mr. Clarke is a great source of institutional knowledge. Dr Kruskall added that the BOH could end up being a subsidiary of the purposes of the Board of Selectmen, rather than an independent elected Board with autonomy. The applications for grants may be affected. Dr Kruskall stated that the Board of Selectmen as they demonstrated in the past may not always be in tune with what the Board of Health feels the town needs.
 14. At 10:01 am it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.