

Town of Maynard

Board of Health

Meeting Minutes – August 31, 2021 - Meeting via Zoom

The Maynard Board of Health (BOH) held their scheduled meeting on Tuesday, August 31, 2021, virtually via. Kathy McMillan, Chair, Lisa Thuot, Vice Chair, and Jodi Larkin, Member, were present. A roll call vote was completed. Also in attendance were Kelli Calo, Director of Hudson Public and Community Health, Meghan Zammuto, Assistant Town Administrator, Justine St. John, Select Board, and Jeff Swanberg, Select Board.

I. Call Board of Health Meeting to Order

A motion was made by K. McMillan to open the Board of Health Meeting at 6:43pm, which was seconded by L. Thuot. The motion was supported unanimously via a roll call vote.

II. COVID-19 Update: Including BOH Decision to Follow CDC Guidance re: Mask

The current number of COVID-19 cases in Maynard is 44 probable and 340 confirmed cases. K. McMillan explained that the numbers were slightly higher than the previous month, but Maynard has a very high vaccination rate. She also noted that the CDC had not changed their recommendations regarding mask wearing. J. Swanberg asked what conditions or case counts would require Maynard to institute a mask mandate. K. McMillan explained that there are no specific criteria, state requirements, state of emergency, etc. and that each town can decide if they want a mask mandate, and people can individually decide if they want to wear a mask in public. The schools have a mask mandate in place for the upcoming school year. J. Larkin questioned why the Town of Sudbury implemented a mask mandate, and was wondering if all the Sudbury teachers were vaccinated. K. Calo noted that Hudson does not have a mask mandate, consistent with CDC guidelines. She noted that mandates are difficult to impossible to enforce; it cannot be enforced by the BOH nor the police, and Maynard has persons from many surrounding communities entering stores to shop. K. McMillan explained that the BOH could revisit a mask mandate option after the school year starts if data and/or recommendations change.

Guest Natasha Rivera, Vice Chair of the Maynard School Committee, noted legalities/HIPAA related issues pertaining to vaccines and self-disclosure about vaccination status. She noted that currently there is no active policy for vaccinations from the school board. Although younger children are not vaccinated, COVID-19 has largely spared young children. When the Maynard schools are at full capacity, it will be difficult to impossible to obtain 6 feet of social distancing; rather 3 feet of social distancing is more probable. Schools will be in-person, with no remote learning.

III. Full-Time Health Agent Update

The Select Board has approved a full time Health Agent position, funding partially by the Town and partially by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Some funding needs approval at the upcoming town meeting from new growth funds, which the Finance Committee recommends. M. Zammuto noted that the position will be advertised soon. The agreement with Hudson runs through mid-September, however K. Calo will be stepping away from the BOH to lead the Metrowest Regional Grant shared services initiative. The Town would like to keep up the level of service, but staffing challenges exist right now. M. Zammuto will be the point person for health and conservation related inquiries. New software tools for housing and restaurant inspections will be helpful going forward. A part-time assistant for the BOH is not financially supported at this time. K. Calo offered her assistance for health-related questions. M. Zammuto is confident that the funding for a full-time Health Agent will be approved at Town meeting.

IV. Railroad Street Housing Inspection Update

The Town Council is making the property owner accountable for repairs. The judge in the case indicated he doesn't understand what repairs haven't been done, and why, and what is the plan going forward. The judge wants the property owner and the town, through their lawyers, to work out a joint resolution plan due September 10th. The sloping floors in several units have been fixed, and the building inspector looked at the footings and approved the structural work. Units were inspected by the BOH (K. Calo and a colleague from Hudson) 1.5 weeks ago where repairs were needed for health reasons. Most of the work was done, with just a few outstanding items. This doesn't include plumbing and sheet metal issues where fire impacted in-unit washers/dryers and dryer vents. Some past issues include the owner not obtaining permits, getting work done by licensed plumbers, and some permits getting pulled but not paid in full.

V. Recent Dumpster Complaints and Review of Solid Waste Regulations

The BOH has received many dumpster complaints. Dumpsters require a permit, and dumpster fees may need to be increased in the future. Compliance issues include dumpster content overflow and placing a dumpster in a public street. K. McMillan questioned if there is a timeframe for keeping a dumpster in a [residential] yard/property? M. Zammuto noted that a temporary dumpster can be in place for 30 days or less. Typically, the resident/property owner gets the dumpster permit. Regarding proximity in or near a public way – K. Calo checked the regulations and explained that a temporary dumpster can be placed in the road if property owners notify police in advance, and the dumpster must have reflective indicators to warn motorists. In watershed districts, dumpsters must be on an impervious surface.

VI. Approve Meeting Minutes of Previous Meeting

No meeting minutes were available for approval.

VII. Other Business (not previously anticipated):

The Green Maynard Citizen petition was done to get the new proposed bylaws (for a plastic bag and polystyrene ban) on the Town meeting warrant for a vote. K. McMillan explained that the BOH supports

the plastic bag ban, but it would be difficult to enforce the polystyrene ban without a full-time Town health agent.

VIII. Adjournment

No questions were received from the public when prompted. K. McMillan made a motion to adjourn the BOH meeting at 8:02pm. The motion was seconded by J. Larkin. The motion was supported unanimously by a roll call vote. The next BOH meeting is scheduled Tues., September 28, 2021, at 6:30pm.