

Board of Health Minutes

February 24, 2022

Town of Auburn
Board of Health
Town Hall Selectmen
Room
104 Central Street, Auburn, Massachusetts

Members Present : Eric Otterson, Chair; Carolyn Griffin, Vice Chair; Lindsay Guittarr member,
In Attendance: Darlene Coyle DDIS Director; Eileen Alexander Asst. Director of Health; Paula Conway
DDIS Clerk

Board of Health - Thursday February 24, 2022 6:00pm .

Vice Chair, Carolyn Griffin in accordance with the Open Meeting Law, entertains a motion to call the meeting to order .

Darlene Coyle states the meeting hybrid information for calls & online attendance for the public.

Lindsay Guittarr makes a motion to open tonight 's meeting February 24 , 2022 at 6:02pm
Carline Griffin - Second Vote 3-0

1. **Call to Order** - Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.
2. **Review Agenda** - Add/Remove any items
3. **Approval of Minutes** - 8/17/21-9/28/21-11/18/21

Approval of Minutes:

Carolyn Griffin entertains a motion to accept the meeting minutes for 8/17/21 Board of Health meeting.

Lindsay Guittarr makes a motion to accept the minutes for 8/17/21 Board of Health meeting.
Carolyn Griffin : Second Vote: 2-0

Carolyn Griffin entertains a motion to accept the meeting minutes for 9/28/21 Board of Health.

Lindsay Guittarr makes a motion to accept the minutes for 9/28/21 Board of Health meeting.
Carolyn Griffin : Second Vote: 2-0

Eric Otterson joins the meeting at 6:07pm

Carolyn Griffin entertains a motion to accept the meeting minutes for 11/18/21 Board of Health meeting.

Lindsay Guittarr makes a motion to accept the minutes for 11/18/21 Board of Health meeting.
Eric Otterson : Second Vote: 3-0

6:00pm-Discussion- COVID Updates on Declining Cases & Mask Order Discussion & Clinics

Darlene Coyle informed the Board that we have had a decline in COVID cases in the past month. From the report Eileen has done, there has been a dramatic decline in cases from the highs we had December

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& January where we had 300-400 cases. Eileen has the number of cases as of this week that went from 30 cases last week to 10 this week. Additionally, there have been a number of different things happening at the State/local level in the past few weeks. On February 9TH, 2022 the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education sent out a press release for State wide school mask requirement being lifted as of next Monday February 28, 2022, and our school department has decided to follow this guidance and they will also be lifting the mask requirement as on February 28, 2022. The State Department of Public Health has also updated face covering advisement as of February 15, 2022. They have advised fully vaccinated people to wear face masks indoors in public settings as an advisory. They do encourage someone that has a weakened immune system or lives with somebody with a medical condition to wear masks as protection against COVID. The CDC has updated their guidance also to anyone the age of 2yrs or older and are not fully vaccinated to date. They recommend masks indoor in public.

Darlene explained that last September, we had a mask order that the Board voted into place that was based on cases at the time, when Delta variant was high. We have reviewed the current cases and figures before you as part of your packets. Auburn is at 77% fully vaccination rate and are doing well in this area. The State vaccination rate is at 77%, so we are at the same rate. We wanted to bring this information to you. Eileen can expand upon any of the information she has in the report. At this time, we want to see if the Board would like to discuss the rescinding of the mask order in Municipal buildings.

Eric Otterson entertains a motion to rescinding the mask order for Municipal Buildings.

Carolyn Griffin makes a motion to rescind the mask order for all Municipal building immediately.

Lindsay Guittarr - Second

Vote 3-0

6:05pm- Plastic Bag Reduction Bylaw Extension/Waiver request protocol & Waiver request by Winsupply of Worcester, 100 Southbridge Street Auburn, MA.

Darlene Coyle gives the Board an update regarding the Plastic Bag Bylaw. Originally when the bylaw went into place, it was put on hold due to COVID so therefor it was not put in place immediately. When we re-visited late summer in was decided by Board of Selectmen that we were going to implement it as of October 1, 2021 and up to now we have been supplying education to businesses. We had two businesses come to the town with request regarding the Bylaw. One was handled by the Board of Selectman and the extension request was granted by the BOS; the business had intended to use the compliant bags but due to supply chain they were stuck on the barge from overseas. They still had existing plastic bag inventory they wanted to use up, and they were granted the extension.

However, for this particular request from Winsupply they are not asking for an extension they are requesting a waiver. They have purchased the compliant bags and intend to use them however, in some cases they have some product that they believe would be difficult to contain in the new bags they ordered. Eileen & I have gone out to the business and met with them and discussed their request. They have a lot of extremely small pieces that they would still like to use the original bags due to the fact they can not tie the compliant bags. They do intend to use the compliant bags, and the manager stated that they would only use the plastic bags on a rare occasion.

Eric Otterson entertains a motion to approve the waiver.

Carolyn Griffin makes a motion to approve the waiver request for Winsupply located at 100 Southbridge Street Auburn, MA.

Lindsay Guittarr - Second

Vote: 3-0

Darlene asked the Board if they would like further requests of these type brought to the Board to make the

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decisions on extensions/waivers or would they like to have her review them. Eric Otterson stated that he trusts the Department to make the decisions on the plastic bag extensions/waivers requests as he trusts her judgement and knows she will do what is right for the town.

A. Director's Items

- A. Animal Control- Just a reminder Dog Licenses are now due. The licensing fee itself did not increase however just the late fees have increased.
- B. Tobacco Control- No updates
- C. Solid Waste - The updated Solid Waste fees went in to affect in the January billing. We have sent out notices of the new fees along with posting them on the website. We are currently working on an educational mailing that we will be using grant funding to mail out in the next month.
- D. CMMC- No update
- E. Emergency Preparedness- We are currently working with Region 2 through a grant, on having our Emergency Trailer worked on. The BOH has had this trailer for over 10yrs now and have noticed some water damage and are hoping to have this repaired this summer.

B. Communicable Diseases: Viewed by the Board

Eric Otterson entertains a motion to adjourn the meeting .

Carolyn Griffin makes a motion to close the hearing at 6:29pm .

Lindsay Guittarr : Second Vote: All in favor 3-0

Approved on June 2nd,2022