

Shutesbury Board of Health

April 21, 2021, 7 pm

Virtual meeting

Present: Norene Pease, chair; Catherine Hilton, clerk; Arleen Read, Garrett Simonsen, Al Werner, board members; Mary Dodge, guest; other guests as noted below.

The minutes of the meeting of April 7 were approved. Note: there is no video or audio archive of the April 7 meeting because of a problem with transitioning to the town's zoom account. Beginning tonight, Garrett will be the zoom meeting host; Cat is able to do it if Garrett isn't available. (This was tested in a "meeting" of Cat's computer and Cat's phone on April 8.)

Arleen presented the concerns of a citizen who approached her about the PFAS testing program, including questions about whether Shutesbury had been identified by DEP as a particular trouble spot. Since a second public message would be useful now, we will incorporate these questions into a second town-announce.

7:15 Claudia Lucas, health agent; Mark Olszewski, Mark Lelacheur, Tom Siefert, Allen Hanson, and David Hanson re Shutesbury Athletic Club's reopening plans. An operating plan was reviewed and approved with one addition: we will adopt the metric being used by the school, namely, if we see 5 COVID-19 cases within any two-week period, there will be a meeting between BOH and SAC representatives to review.

7:45 Donna West, Claudia Lucas, re Lake Wyola Association's planned August 21 dinner. Because of the changing situation, this discussion will be taken up in July.

The board also approved a painting fundraiser, which would involve about 14 people in the association hall. They must be masked. Soap dispensers and paper-towel dispensers in bathrooms need not be touch-free.

The board agreed that it was fine to have the annual meeting outdoors under the tent in August. Again, masking required.

Beach closing procedures for the association beaches were also discussed. The LWA board has adopted a policy that involves working with the BOH and Whitewater (the testing firm) to resolve problems. LWA will post no-swimming signs with red flags and send an email blast to their list; procedures are in place to ensure that someone will be available to post the beach(es) in question. The BOH will also post; we need to get some reusable signs that are erasable so we can date them. In addition, the beaches will have signage provided by LWA regarding masks and social distancing.

Grace Bannasch, Town Clerk, re Annual Town Meeting: it was agreed that BOH members will be in charge of human traffic control and microphone sanitation, will oversee the indoor election area, and will mark the ground with chalk lines to establish appropriate distancing. Grace has a pen-free plan for ballot voting. We will not interview people entering as we did last year, but we will post a large sign asking people not to enter if they have certain symptoms.

Updates from Arleen:

95% of SES pupils have returned to school for face-to-face instruction. A meeting with school administration is automatically triggered by the incidence of 5 cases in a two-week period so that it can be determined whether any of the cases is part of the school community.

She “onboarded” the BOH onto the MIIS system in order to keep us on the list of vaccination providers in case we return to offering vaccination in the future.

Mary Anne Antonellis suggests becoming a “cheerleader for vaccination,” using such tactics as a thermometer board on town common, etc. The BOH does not feel that such an approach is a good motivator for vaccination, preferring that vaccination information be provided to hesitant individuals by a trusted source (which could be Mary Anne).

Adjourn 8:55.