

WHITMAN BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Members present: Danielle Clancy - Chair
Dawn Varley – Vice Chair
Brandon Griffin - Clerk

Staff present: Dan Kelly – Health Inspector/Dept. Head
Dina Amado – Administrative Asst. BOH

Others present: Lincoln Heinemann – Town Administrator

Danielle Clancy called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Danielle Clancy read the following:

Welcome everyone to the meeting, this meeting is following open meeting laws and is open to the general public and as the meeting is an in person meeting it is therefore not being recorded or posted to YouTube. We will be performing an audio only recording for meeting minute's transcription purposes only.

Chair Danielle Clancy asked for a motion to approve meeting minutes for 9/28/2021 BOH meeting.

Motioned: Brandon G

2nd: Dawn V

Vote: 3 –Yes 0 -No

Minutes to last meeting Approved.

Chair Danielle Clancy asked for a motion to accept the Health Inspector's Report and Read File.

Motioned: Brandon G

2nd: Dawn V

Vote: 3 –Yes 0 -No

Health Inspector's Report and Read File Accepted.

Dan Kelly shared some information with the Board: Shared an update on situation at Family Dollar in Whitman. Stated he talked with the owner of the building and has been working closely with Store operators and management. A new Exterminator Company has been hired. Cleaning has been done and building owner has stated there will be new painting and new floor and ceiling tiles put in place.

Danielle C: Commended Mr. Kelly for his due diligence in handling the situation.

Dawn V & Danielle C: Thanked Mr. Kelly for the work he has performed over and above his duties to resolve the situation. Mentioned most would just shut them down.

Dan K: Stated that he did have to shut them down temporarily but they worked to resolve the issues and are actively working to resolve any remaining issues.

Chair Danielle Clancy asked for a motion to accept the licenses as issued.

Motioned: Brandon G

2nd: Dawn V

Vote: 3 –Yes 0 -No

Licenses accepted as issued.

Chair announced meeting will move to discussion regarding previous BOH recommendation on Space Meeting Limits.

Danielle C: Stated she sent a letter to the Board of Selectmen after their meeting they had asked for something in writing. Stated said that we would re-visit our decision on space limits for meetings. Stated she was caught by surprise and didn't think the motion they voted on for the limit was what was originally intended.

Dawn V: Stated the Board of Appeals had a meeting where they were jam packed. Stated that a list was made by Todd DeCouto regarding space limits for each office and asked why we are not following that list.

Dan K: Stated he talked with Todd and they changed the setup in the Selectmen's meeting room and it now can hold 9 guests. If the meeting is larger it can be moved to the auditorium.

Lincoln H: Asked to interject, stated the Selectmen appreciate the BOH recommendations. If there is going to be a large meeting it will move to the auditorium. However, the list done by Mr. DeCouto was done when capacity limits were in place by the state. There are currently no capacity limits in place from either the state or DPH.

Brandon G: Stated he was going to suggest rescinding the limit as well. Believed the limit spun out more than was intended. Stated the finance committee has 7 members alone on the committee.

Dan K: Stated he believes that if the board is a large board they should make the decision for themselves.

Danielle C: Stated it should be up to each board to run their own meeting at their own discretion. Stated she would like a letter from Lincoln saying if you are having a large meeting then move the meeting to the auditorium.

Dawn V: Stated there was a meeting and the woman from the meeting with the Donner Institute had to give a presentation and was a guest at the meeting and she was crowded and not comfortable.

Lincoln H: Stated he talked with Anne Donner herself and she stated she was not uncomfortable or concerned.

Dawn V and Brandon G: Stated they do not believe someone asked that question would give an honest answer as to their comfort or lack of comfort in a crowded meeting.

Danielle C: Stated she would like letter to come from Lincoln or Selectmen saying if meeting is too large then move it.

Lincoln H: Advised he has talked with various Boards and Committees and said if they believe that their meeting is going to be large to move the meeting to a larger room. However, their usual response is what number is too large. There are no current capacity limits.

Dawn V and Danielle C: Asked Lincoln to send an email and give them a copy.

Lincoln H: Asked what capacity is too large? There are no state recommendations or mandates.

Dawn V: Advised the state is doing mandatory vaccines and we are not following that recommendation so we are following some and not others.

Brandon G: Stated he is in agreement with Dawn V. Stated we are picking and choosing which recommendations to follow. Advised that the vaccine rate hasn't moved and if we are picking and choosing we should look at the vaccine mandate.

Danielle C: Advised Brandon that the meeting will get to COVID protocols shortly.

Dawn V: Stated she showed a picture at the last meeting and the room was crowded.

Lincoln H: Advised if he sends an email and if he was a chairman of a board he would ask what does that mean. The boards are aware that there are no current capacity limits.

Danielle C: Reiterated that there are no current capacity limits and someone can have 500 guests at a wedding right now. Stated if someone goes to a meeting and it is too crowded they have the choice of staying or leaving.

Dawn V: Stated if they are an invited guest giving a presentation they do not have the choice to leave.

Brandon G: Stated he understands what Dawn is trying to say. Stated he believes if there is a meeting on 55 Plymouth then people are going to come to that meeting for that reason alone. Stated he doesn't believe there should be capacity limit and that we should move on from capacity limits. Stated he is fine with Lincoln sending a letter.

Lincoln H: Stated he is happy to send an email but asked the board to consider the number of people at the meeting and what the number for the capacity limit should be. The boards will be looking for a response to what that number is when there are currently no capacity limits.

Danielle C: Stated the board of health will send the email.

Dawn V: Stated that she has an employee who is going to be doing an event for Dollars for Scholars and he is already deciding on mask mandates and will be doing a sign in sheet if the event has to move indoors due to weather for contact tracing purposes. He is not mandated to do that but he is doing that because other people might have concerns.

Danielle C: Advised there are no mask mandates and it is up to the organizers and organizations to make those kinds of decisions for themselves.

Chair Danielle Clancy asked for a motion to rescind previous motion on recommending meeting space limits of 8 guests.

Motioned: Brandon G

2nd: Danielle C

Vote: 3 –Yes 0 –No

Previous vote to recommend limiting meeting space capacity to 8 guests was rescinded.

Dawn V: Asked to make a motion to recommend that Boards & Committees be aware of the number of guests in attendance.

Motioned: Dawn V

2nd: Brandon G

Vote: 2 –Yes 1 –No

Brandon G-Y, Dawn V-Y, Danielle C - N

Motion to recommend that Boards & Committees be aware of the number of guests in attendance passes.

Chair Danielle C: Stated a letter or email should be sent to all Boards & Committees asking them to be aware of the number in attendance and if meeting is too large to move the meeting to the auditorium or a larger room. The boards & Committees are to determine the number acceptable at their discretion, noting that the board trusts in

their discretion. The board agreed to send the letter or email once approved and signed by each member either physically or electronically.

Chair announced meeting will move to discussion regarding a Sharps Collection day

Motion to discuss: Brandon G

2nd: Dawn V

Vote: None taken

Discussion:

Board discussed holding a drive through sharps collection day in the police station parking lot on a date to be determined in the future. After discussion board agreed to hold an event on a date to be determined. Expressed need to find out more information regarding any weight limits for collection by vendor. Dina A to review contract to determine if there is a weight limit or volume limit for collection. Discussed after speaking with police representative determined Saturday would be best day to hold such an event.

Motion made: To approve and hold a sharps collection day at a date to be determined.

Motioned: Brandon G

2nd: Dawn V

Vote: 3 – Yes 0 - No

Motion to hold sharps collection day at a date to be determined passes.

Chair announced meeting will move to discussion on Old Colony / Keolis Vegetation Management Plan.

Motion to discuss: Brandon G

2nd: Dawn V

Vote: 3 – Yes 0 - No

Discussed: Keolis currently notifies the town when spraying will occur and have been spraying for years. Discussed only thing that has changed is that they have a new plan and are looking for new approvals. Discussed conditional approval from the Board for spraying and vegetation clearing. Condition based on approval from conservation committee.

Motion made to: Recommend Conditional approval that if there is no opposition from conservation then the BOH will approve spraying and clearing of vegetation by Keolis for the maintenance of the Rail Road tracks in Whitman.

Motion: Brandon G

2nd: Dawn V

Vote: 2 – Yes 1 - No

Brandon G-N, Dawn V-Y, Danielle C-Y

Motion passes.

Chair announced meeting will move to discussion on old business in regards to the current COVID protocols and mandates.

Motion to discuss:

Motion: Brandon G

2nd: Dawn V

Vote: 3 – Yes 0 - No

Discussed: Danielle C discussed plans to hold booster clinics in town. Stated plans to hold clinics at Knights of Columbus as well as the Senior Center and possibly in-home administrations depending patient need. Advised vaccines have been ordered and dates will be set once vaccines have been received. Stated expect to receive vaccine within next few weeks. Stated reached out to Hanson to discuss clinic at the schools, no interest was expressed. If that changes having a clinic at the schools will be addressed at that time. Discussion then moved to mandating vaccines for town employees. Brandon G gave figures regarding vaccination rates for the Town. After discussion Brandon G proposed motion to make vaccines mandatory for all town employees.

Brandon G made motion to mandate that all municipal employees be fully vaccinated. Dawn V seconded the motion.

Discussion: Board discussed if medical and religious exemptions would be allowed. Discussed if weekly testing would be needed for those not vaccinated and who would be required to pay for testing. Questions arose about union bargaining impacts as well as requirements needed to qualify for medical or religious exemptions. After discussions Brandon G proposed motion.

Brandon G: Asked for motion to mandate that all municipal employees be fully vaccinated.

Motion: Brandon G

2nd: Dawn V

Vote: 1 – Yes 2 - No

Brandon G-Y, Danielle C-N, Dawn V-N

Motion does not pass.

After further discussion: Brandon G asked to amend his previous motion: Asked for motion to recommend that all municipal employees be fully vaccinated except for persons with medical or religious exemptions or concerns and that those persons with religious exemption must submit a signed letter under pains and penalties of perjury and those persons with medical exemption must submit a signed Doctor's note.

Motion: Brandon G

2nd: Dawn V

Vote: 1 – Yes 2 - No

Brandon G-Y, Danielle C-N, Dawn V-N

Motion does not pass.

Dawn V: Asked for a motion to recommend to BOS that all Newly Hired employees only; be required to be fully vaccinated at time of hire, except for persons with medical or religious exemptions or concerns and that those persons with religious exemption must submit a signed letter under pains and penalties of perjury and those persons with medical exemption must submit a signed Doctor's note.

Motion: Dawn V

2nd: Danielle C

Vote: 2– Yes 1 - Abstained

Brandon G-Abstained, Danielle C-Y, Dawn V-Y

Motion to recommend passes.

Chair asked for motion to adjourn.

Chair Danielle Clancy asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:43 AM.

Motioned: Brandon G

2nd: Dawn V

Vote: 3 – Yes 0 - No

Meeting adjourned.

True copy attest: _____
Brandon J. Griffin – Clerk BOH

Date: _____

Filed with Clerk's office _____