

**Halifax Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 5, 2022**

On Wednesday, a meeting of the Halifax Board of Health was held at the Halifax Town Hall.
Present at the meeting were:

Steven MacFaun, Chair
Pamela Engstrom, Co-Chair
Candice Greene, Clerk
Robert Valery, Health Agent

Also present: Area 58 Film Staff, Amy Troup and Ashley DiSesa, and Lori Montouri.

The Board of Health opened at 6:36pm.

1. **Executive Session(s):** After close of meeting potential vote on nurse.

2. **Disposal Works Permits:**

a. **Ratify Agents Approval:**

i. 20 Buttonwood Ave

A Motion was made to ratify agents' approval.

Motion: Pamela Engstrom

Second: Candice Greene

Unanimous vote on the motion

ii. 327 Wood Street

A Motion was made to ratify agents' approval.

Motion: Pamela Engstrom

Second: Candice Greene

Unanimous vote on the motion

b. **Requiring Local Upgrades & Variances:** *(but otherwise recommended for approval)*

i. 47 White Island Road

1. Allow SAS to be 70 ft. from a tributary to a water supply instead of 200 ft. required. 15405(1)(g) Tributary to a surface water supply

2. Allow a septic tank to be 57 ft. from a tributary water supply instead of 200 ft. 15.405(1)(g)

A Motion was made to ratify agents' approval.

Motion: Pamela Engstrom

Second: Candice Greene

Unanimous vote on the motion

3. **Bring to Boards Attention**

a. Board of Health Nurse Interviews.

- i. Lori Montouri
 - 1. Lori was present for the meeting.
- ii. Leanne McGuinness
 - 1. Leanne was not present, Agent will contact.

Discussion Items:

- b. RS Education Stipend - % of pay.
 - i. Board discussed.

A Motion was made to present the Finance Committee with the potential; stipend percent between 1-5%.

Motion: Pamela Engstrom

Second: Candice Greene

Unanimous vote on the motion

c. Nurse Service Fund.

- i. The Board agreed to have The Agent write a letter for the Chairman to present to The Select Board requesting that D.P.H Nurse Fund monies are compensated to The Health Agent for the additional workload of COVID. The letter will also ask if any Nursing Funds can be used for compensation for the added work. Agent also recommended that Halifax Fire Dept. Administrative Assistant Kendra Kelly receives a degree of compensation based on the COVID workload that she has assumed as well. She has been a great help.

d. Agent Report:

- i. COVID Update: statistics, new return to work guidance, test kits.

ii. Statistics & Guidance:

Agent updated that the run rate for week 6 is 10.47-12.05-18.77 which are significant Increases. When posed with the question, what do the numbers mean? Optimism and light at the end of the tunnel as we have tools, he stated. Variants are mutations which are expected but difficult to predict. In the Town of Halifax hospitalizations are down, no confirmed deaths, and symptoms less severe. This varies within the State, Country, and World. Combination of vaccination, boosting, and natural immunity (which varies with every infectious disease and has a less predictable immune response than vaccination and boosting). Huge societal impact: economy, hospitals, schools, retail, manufacturing, supply chain and the way of life. (Class 1 recalls on a rise: i.e. Ventilator assembly error and food borne disease) Testing = Availability. Someone may not need to go for a test if they have symptoms, considered probable and should follow all protocols. Until supplies become readily available, the intended purpose of testing is focused on critical personnel, returning to work, and travel. Agent reminded the Board and the Public that home tests must be performed correctly. Do not swab mouth. State expects a second distribution of free kits +/- 2000 date to be determined. Town has ARPA funds to buy test kits but must be approved by Selectman. Agent requested the Board to write request to Select Board to request

that usage of the funds. Considering a Saturday drive through for distribution, Agent and Board want to consider the best option for speed and effectiveness.

iii. **5 Day return to work change:**

Asymptomatic: 5-day masking after. No test required but can be advised at end. This change is based on the combination of economical and public health. It is a Behavioral move on what people will likely follow/tolerate. The 90% Transmission is based of maximum infection 1-2 with 3-5-day onset. If you are sick or exhibit symptoms, don't go to work.

iv. **Mask Mandate**

Agent stated that there are opposing opinions on effectiveness. Masks are proven to reduce airborne particulates but only when worn correctly and properly fitting. As for Enforcement, Agent state that it would put workers in a difficult position with increased anxiety/violence surrounding masking. Agent's Observations of Towns with a mandate estimation is 75% of population compliance. Wear a mask at gatherings and where and when it makes sense. Anxiety, behavioral issues violence continue to escalate. Mental Health services are available.

4. **Affirm:** Any Bills Paid (*Board Vote to Affirm*)

a. Carry over to the next meeting.

5. **The Following to be signed:** Board Signed.

a. **Payroll for the Week Ending [January 1st, 2022]**

- i. Robert Valery, Health Agent
- ii. Margaret Selter, Administrative Assistant
- iii. Kelly Dwyer, Secretary
- iv. Brian Kling, Animal Inspector

Adjournment

A Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Motion: Pamela Engstrom


Second: Candice Greene

Unanimous vote on the motion

Typed by,
Kelly Dwyer, Secretary



Steven MacFaun, Chair



Pamela Engstrom, Co-Chair



Candice Greene, Clerk