

**Wellfleet Board of Health
Virtual Meeting ~ Zoom
Wednesday June 9, 2021; 5PM
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Ken Granlund, Chair; Janet Drohan, Nick Picariello

Members Absent: Gary Locke

Others Present: Hillary Greenberg-Lemos, Health Agent; Rebekah Eldridge, Committee Secretary; Charles Sumner, Interim Town Administrator; Lara Henry, Wellfleet Chamber of Commerce; Suzanne Grout-Thomas, Director of Community Services; Terri Frazier, Assistant Director of COA;

Chair Granlund called the meeting to order 5:01pm

Lara Henry talked to the Board about moving the 4th of July parade to Labor Day Weekend. She gave some details on why the chamber came to this decision. The Board discussed this parade and agreed it would be safer to have it in September.

Chair Granlund moved; Board Member Drohan seconded; and it was voted to support Wellfleet Chamber of Commerce to move the 4th of July parade to Labor Day weekend with the understanding that things are subject to change. Vote carried 3-0.

Covid Reopening Plan

- The Board began discussion on mask wearing, what the thoughts of the board members are. Board member Picariello discussed that although Massachusetts has a good percentage of vaccinations there are many states that don't have the high of a rate and Wellfleet receives many visitors from all over the country during the summer. There is still some concern.
- Lemos gave an update on the surrounding towns that are open, Brewster is open two days a week, Truro is open two days a week and masks are required. She continued that Eastham is open three days a week and masks are required there are well. She gave concerns that were raised from town hall staff regarding tourists that enter the town hall building just to look around and no wearing masks is a great concern.
- Administrator Sumner spoke to the buildings reopening stating that it is concerning for staff but there are many people that want the buildings to "just be open" stating that Fenway Park is open for thousands of people.
- Lemos gave the library's soft opening information. There will be a lot of restrictions for patrons going into the library. Administrator Sumner stated that he feels that the town offices should be in sync with each. Stating it would look better for everyone to be on the same sort of schedule.
- The Board continued discussion on reopening plans for town offices. Stating that to begin they were in favor of opening for just a few hours a couple days a week. Stating just to see how it works. Board member Drohan suggested that maybe there could be someone to monitor people coming in and out of town hall. Lemos stated that there is such limited staff at this point they may be able to reach out to some folks from the senior center that might be willing to volunteer their time.

A full recording of this meeting can be found on the town's website

- As the Board discussed opening and the standards regarding opening, there are still so many unanswered questions and concerns of many people. They discussed a few different situations that covid was transferred in an office because a person thought they just had a cold and then 5 people had covid the next day.
- They agreed with the library opening there should be some face-to-face contact for residents and people wanting to come into the building. Drohan agreed with Sumner, there should be a soft opening, A couple days a week the board felt makes sense.
- Frazier stated that she was unclear about the rules and regulations. She was under the impression that she thought people were now allowed to be together with no restrictions. She questioned how we go from locked to open, she gave an example of someone is able to walk in on Tuesday because the building is open if someone comes on Wednesday will the building be staffed. Lemos explained the building will be unlocked on certain days and other days staff will be in the buildings, but only open by appointment. Frazier asked if the offices will be requiring masks? Lemos explained that yes masks will be mandated because there are some employees are not able to be vaccinated and don't want to put staff at risk. Lemos stated they have come so far, and she just doesn't want to relinquish all the regulations, not knowing what could happen throughout the summer and into the fall. The variants are different and there is so much unknown.
- Lemos stated she will put a reopening plan together for the Board and send it to them and the Administration and Selectboard.
- Drohan questioned the air quality in the town buildings, will the buildings be looked at and assessed for air quality. Lemos explained that most of the buildings especially the Town Hall and DPW Buildings have horrible ventilation, stating that the COA has had mold issues, the police station had odor issues, and the library is older and has its own issues. She stated they have been fighting this fight for years and she stated they're going to have to reevaluate all of this in the fall.
- Drohan stated having unity amongst the town buildings will make it easier for people coming in.
- Thomas asked about the group that plays bridge. Lemos stated that this is an ongoing appointment. The doors are able to be open.
- They continued to discuss the logistics of reopening. Sumner agreed that he they can get in touch with KP Law help them on reopening. They discussed if the state doesn't produce any legislation regarding virtual meetings there is a large concern about meeting spaces. They did discuss some space that might be available.
- Sumner stated they really needed to check with Mia the tech person for Wellfleet and see what capabilities the town has regarding hybrid meetings.
- They continued to have an open discussion about having meetings in person, and the concern with said meetings. It was discussed that there is a lot more audience participation with most of the meetings because they are virtual. Lemos, suggested reaching out to chairs of all the town committees to see about their thoughts regarding meetings. Lemos stated she wanted to see what the governor does and if he will extend the virtual meeting/open meeting law requirements throughout the summer.

A full recording of this meeting can be found on the town's website

Board of Health Regulations

- The Board decided they wanted to have this discussion when Board Member Locke was in attendance of the meeting so the whole Board could give their thoughts, opinions, and suggestions regarding updating the regulations.

Minutes

- May 12, 2021 ~ **Board Member Drohan moved; Chair Granlund seconded; and it was voted to approve the meeting minutes. 3-0.**

New Business

- Board Member Drohan brought up that she received her ballot for the town election and in there was a question regarding the new IA systems and she explained she had no idea this was going to be on the ballot and she's on the Board of Health. Lemos explained why this is on the ballot. This is to cover the bond issue in case everything gets together. Drohan stated she feels that this is going to cause many questions from town voters and a lot of confusion.
- Chair Granlund expressed his concern in listening to the Finance Committee meetings and hearing members of the wastewater committee stating they are working with the Board of Health. He stated they haven't had any communication with Wastewater Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm

Public Records:

Meeting Minutes of May 12, 2021