

***Wellfleet Selectboard
With
Wellfleet Board of Health
Wednesday November 17, 2021; 5:30pm
Virtual Meeting ~ Zoom
Meeting Minutes***

Members Present: Ryan Curley, Chair; Michael DeVasto, Vice Chair; Janet Reinhart, Helen Miranda Wilson; John Wolf

Others Present: Rebekah Eldridge; Executive Assistant; Ken Granlund; Board of Health Chair; Janet Drohan, Board of Health Member; Nick Picariello, Board of Health Member;

Chair Curley called the meeting to order at 5:32pm

Covid-19 update

- The board of health will discuss numbers and possible new testing sites that will be available to the Wellfleet and surrounding towns.
- They will also discuss a mask order for the Town of Wellfleet
- Granlund asked Lemos to give an update on the Covid Cases for the town of Wellfleet. She gave an update with 11 active positive cases in town giving the town a 7.9% increase. She continued stating the cases in Barnstable County are climbing and continue to climb. She stated right now they are above the state average. She also gave vaccination rates for the town stating that 58% of Wellfleet are fully vaccinated.
- She continued stating that she feels they should move on from the percentage rate to how the virus is being transmitted and what they can do moving forward.
- Lemos shared her screen which showed a map of the positive cases around Barnstable County, and she explained that Wellfleet is one of the highest positive rates in the county. Picariello asked Lemos if there was a way to get an announcement out to residents and visitors who are coming into Wellfleet for Thanksgiving to update them and inform them that our positive rates are high, and they need to be aware.
- The Board continued to discuss the personal responsibility of residents when gathering, wearing masks and educating the public.
- They continued to discuss with the Selectboard the need to mandate mask wearing. Chair Curley expressed his feelings on going from a mask mandate and lifting it every two weeks. He stated that a mask mandate needs to be set for a period of time more than two weeks. He stated it was unrealistic to ask residents and visitors every two weeks to wear a mask and then not have to wear a mask. Wilson spoke to the board and expressed that with the weather getting colder, people will be gathering indoors. She stated she agreed with Curley that they shouldn't continue to "flip Flop" with the mask mandate.

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

- Drohan spoke to the boards and explained how they have been making decisions regarding the masks. She continued stating they base their decisions on science and the numbers that they get from the county and the town. She continued, asking how both of these boards can get the information to the residents so they are able to make the right decisions regarding masks.
- Chief Hurley spoke to the boards and stated that from the public safety standpoint there is so much more mental health issues, substance abuse issues and having the mask on mask off mandates he feels may be contributing to some of these issues and anxiety. He gave examples to the board of residents becoming angry and confrontational with each other.
- They continued to discuss data and science and the need for masks, Chair Curley stated he feels they shouldn't be basing these mandates for two weeks rather than four weeks.
- Lemos was asked to give the last months data to compare the numbers.
- Children being vaccinated was discussed and the reality of people testing themselves after they have been at events inside and out.
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- The Board moved on to the letter written by Chair Curley regarding the mask mandate and discussed each paragraph and the language that needed to be changed.
- Granlund stated his concern for issuing a mask mandate and made it very clear that he didn't want to put one in place until they see the Covid numbers for after Thanksgiving. He continued that he didn't want to go back to the Selectboard every time they had to revisit the mask issues. Chair Curley stated that's what needed to happen.

Board Member Wilson Moved; Board Member Wolf Seconded; and it was voted to approve the mask mandate letter as amended at this meeting.

Roll Call Vote: 3-0-1 (Reinhart abstained)

Chair Curley Moved, Board Member Wilson Seconded; and it was voted to adjourn the Selectboard Meeting.

Roll Call Vote: 4-0

Meeting Adjourned at 6:42pm