

TOWN OF HARWICH



BOARD OF HEALTH

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TOWN OF HARWICH BOARD OF HEALTH

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2022- 4:00 P.M.

HARWICH TOWN HALL – DONN B. GRIFFIN ROOM

MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairwoman Pamela Howell, R.N., Vice Chairwoman Sharon Pfleger, M.S., Member Ronald Dowgiallo, D.M.D., Member Matthew Antoine & Member Kevin DuPont, R.N.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Health Director Kathleen O'Neill & Executive Administrative Assistant Jennifer Clarke

OTHERS PRESENT:

As required by law, the Town may audio or video record this meeting. Any person intending to either audio or video record this open session is required to inform the Chair

I CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Howell called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

II NEW BUSINESS

Review and discussion to adopt a mandatory mask order, to consider implementing an Emergency Board of Health Order requiring the use of face coverings at Annual Town Meeting to be held on Monday, May 2, 2022

It was requested that the Board of Health have a discussion regarding the possibility of implementing an emergency order requiring the use of face coverings at May Annual Town Meeting. Health Director O'Neill reported that the Commonwealth currently has 431 total patients hospitalized for COVID, 31 of which are in intensive care and 10 are intubated. Cape Cod Hospital has 13 patients hospitalized with COVID and Falmouth Hospital has 4. Harwich has tracked 34 reported cases over the past 10 days. The 14 day incidence rate for all of Massachusetts is 28.4/100,000 and Harwich is 20.4/100,000. The percent positivity for all of Massachusetts is 4.39% and Harwich is 5.14%.

Health Director O'Neill suggested that the Board may want to consider either recommending masks be worn or potentially requiring them. Her understanding is that there is already a plan in place to have a separate room available that will be socially distanced and require masks for those who would feel more comfortable to not be in the gym.

Mr. DuPont asked how many people are usually at Town Meeting. Health Director O'Neill responded that the attendance is typically 400. Ms. Howell added that the numbers can be more or less than that as well.

Mr. DuPont asked more about the separate room. Health Director O'Neill responded that the multi-purpose room would be used.

Mr. DuPont stated that he would have no problem asking people to wear masks as long as we were able to have them available at the meeting if anyone forgets one.

Ms. Pflieger feels that the Board should highly recommend face coverings, and not to make it mandatory.

Ms. Howell asked if the Board could state that if you have symptoms, that they use the separate room. Health Director O'Neill highly suggested that if people are not well, that the need to stay home. The meeting will be televised, but residents cannot vote from home.

Mr. Dowgiallo asked if the electronic sign could be used to inform about the mask recommendation. Health Director O'Neill responded that she could arrange for the use of the sign.

Mr. DuPont asked if a temperature check could be done before people enter the building. Health Director O'Neill responded that she was unsure of the legality of his request.

Ms. Pflieger moved that the Board of Health provide a sign that states that the Board of Health highly recommends that face coverings be worn at May 2022 Town Meeting, 2nd by Mr. Antoine and approved 5-0-0.

III OTHER

No other items were discussed.

IV ADJOURN- The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m. SP/RD 5-0-0

Ms. Pflieger moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:10 p.m., 2nd by Mr. Dowgiallo and approved 5-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Clarke

Next meeting is Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Documents included in the April 29, 2022 Board of Health Meeting Packet:

- April 29, 2022 Board of Health Agenda
- Any other documents submitted for/at the April 29, 2022 Board of Health meeting