

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
REMOTE VIRTUAL MINUTES
January 26 at 6:00 P.M.

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, s.18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Pembroke Board of Selectmen will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the Pembroke website, at <https://www.pembroke-ma.gov/home/news/governors-order-suspendingcertain-provisions-open-meeting-law>.

No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Pembroke website an audio or video recording, transcript or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

REMOTELY PRESENT: Thomas Driscoll (Chair), Matthew Newman (Secretary), Adam Gedutis (Member), Lisa Cullity (Health Agent), Sheila Landy (BoH Secretary) and Robert DeMarzo (Livestock Subcommittee Chair).

Chair Driscoll opened the meeting at 6:00pm and read the statement regarding COVID-19 and meeting procedures.

BOARD ACTION ITEM

Discuss and possibly vote on Livestock Subcommittee meetings – Mr. DeMarzo was not yet present, and the Chair tabled this until later in the meeting.

Discuss Preparations for the Annual Town Meeting – The Chair asked the Health Agent if there have been any preparations for the Annual Town Meeting. The Agent said no one has approached her yet. The Chair asked the Agent to ask PEMA if they have given any thought to the Annual Town Meeting.

Discuss COVID-19 Vaccine – The Agent stated the Town has formed a collaborative with the Town of Duxbury. In the past few days, it has become apparent there is a low number of vaccines coming into the state. The state has requested Towns not order any more vaccines than they can deliver in a single week. Every week a survey is sent by the state asking how many vaccines can be delivered (administered). There is confusion and glitches in the ordering process. Towns tried to order vaccine for the 75+ citizens to administer starting February 1st. They were denied because the 75+ citizens are not eligible until Monday, February 1st. Some have ordered several hundred to a thousand vaccines and been given 100 to 200 doses. We are working with the Council on Aging to help our senior citizens get on-line and get an appointment to get their vaccine. We are being told by the state repeatedly they are focusing on their mega-clinics. The mega-clinics are in Fenway Park, Gillette, and the Springfield. When asked about the possibility of a mega site in Southeastern MA on Monday night's call, the Marshfield Fair Grounds was mentioned as being a possible site and it was toured yesterday. If it is deemed viable, it would be the end of February to the beginning of March. However, today on another call with different state people, we were told it would be in New Bedford/Fall River. Right now, the only vaccine it looks will be able to get is as a joint collaborative with Duxbury. The Chair asked how many people have signed up for the vaccine. The Agent stated there are no sign-ups yet since we do not have any vaccine. The Council on Aging has started an informal list of senior citizens interested in help signing up for the vaccine. The Chair asked about the CoA's list. The agent said out of 1,300 residents 75+ years old, 225 have reached out to the CoA. Out of 2500 residents 65 to 75 years old, 179 have reached out. These numbers are constantly evolving. The Chair asked if the Board should write a letter to the Governor requesting a mass vaccination on the South Shore? The mass vaccination sites are a long distance for our senior citizens to travel. The Chair made a motion to send a letter to the Governor. Newman seconded and a roll call vote was taken. All were in favor (3-0-0).

The Agent reminded everyone there is a shortage of vaccine. Clinics cannot be set up until the vaccines are in

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hand. You cannot set up a clinic until you have the vaccine. The Agent reminded the public the over 75 citizens should utilize their tech-savvy children and grandchildren to book vaccine appointments.

Discuss and possibly vote on Livestock Subcommittee meetings – Mr. DeMarzo was in attendance. The Chair stated he knew the Livestock Subcommittee meetings had be derailed by COVID. DeMarzo said the only way they could start meeting is via ZOOM. He has been told the number of Zoom Meetings currently booked make it difficult to get on the schedule due to the Open Meeting Law requirements. DeMarzo said they had made a lot of progress and some great ideas before COVID struck. They were getting ready to have a large public meeting to get feedback from the residents. They have lost a couple of members who have moved out of town. Most of the minutes and paperwork are good. The Clerk may need assistance. The Agent has been a great resource to the committee. The Chair asked if they needed a ZOOM meeting. The Agent said it was her understanding every meeting needed to have the ability to allow attendance by the public. During COVID, that is provided by ZOOM through PACTV. The Chair thanked Mr. DeMarzo for the time and effort the subcommittee has devoted to this effort.

Discuss Preparations for the Annual Town Meeting – The Agent said she had not been approached by the Town Manager or the Town Moderator yet regarding Town Meeting.

HEALTH AGENT REPORT

The Health Agent stated just about everything has been covered. The office “normal” activity is low. COVID is front and center. The Agent said the COVID numbers have plateaued and now seem to be dropping. The Schools have not decided anything about batch or pool testing. She will meet with them after this meeting.

The Chair stated the Secretary would be in touch about dates of future meetings and will compose the letter to the Governor.

The Chair asked for motion to adjourn at 6:35. Mr. Newman made a motion to adjourn, Gedutis seconded, and all were in favor (3-0-0).

The Chair signed off at 6:36pm.