

MINUTES OF THE EMERGENCY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
REMOTE VIRTUAL MINUTES
January 5 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 and Sheila Landy (BoH Secretary).

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

BOARD ACTION ITEM

Discuss and vote to Approve the Minutes of August 25, 2020, September 29, 2020, October 27, 2020, and November 17, 2020.

Mr. Newman moved to accept the minutes of August 25, 2020 as written. Adam Gedutis seconded, and all were in favor (3-0-0).

Mr. Newman moved to accept the minutes of September 29, 2020 as written. Adam Gedutis seconded, and all were in favor (3-0-0).

Mr. Newman moved to accept the minutes of October 27, 2020 as written. Adam Gedutis seconded, and all were in favor (3-0-0).

Mr. Newman moved to accept the minutes of November 17, 2020 as written. Adam Gedutis seconded, and all were in favor (3-0-0).

HEALTH AGENT REPORT

The Health Agent gave an update of the current COVID situation in Pembroke. The last couple of days, the positive case count has started to decrease, and she hopes this continues. There has been some business with a couple of cases as well as some childcare facilities. Nothing out of line of what we have seen thus far. Community transmission is our biggest concern. Travel over the holiday have contributed to our rise in numbers. Hopefully, now that the holidays are over, our numbers will drop. The vaccine is on the way and should be available next week start clinics for the first responders. The groups for vaccinations have phases. Not everyone in the first group is eligible for the shot right away. The state is setting the groups and the timetable, not Pembroke. Please understand if you have special circumstance that allow you to be in different group (comorbidities, age, etc.), the municipalities will not have that information. You need to stay in touch with your primary care physician. None of the towns will be able to validate your eligibility. Towns must follow the state's protocol. They cannot administer vaccines as the Town sees fit, they must follow the state's guidelines. Pembroke does have a plan and agreement to provide vaccinations. We are in a five-town consortium to deliver vaccines to first responders. Abington is the lead in this consortium. There is no secondary roll out date for seniors or people with comorbidities. The earliest that will be is probably the

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end of January, early February. The state is saying general population will be eligible the end of April. The Agent thinks May or June is more likely.

There is community interest in testing. Some communities are doing testing. Some are using grants, and some are reallocating CARES Act money. The vast amount of Pembroke's CARES Act money has been spent. There is some left. There is interest in doing testing in the schools. The Town Manager will be speaking to the Superintendent. There is not enough money to do a community wide testing program. The average cost of the towns seems to be \$100 per person after any grant money acquired. The Agent reminded everyone if you are symptomatic or you have been contacted by Contact Tracing, your insurance is mandated to pay for the testing. There are also state sponsored sites which will test anyone for free. The testing being considered for the schools would be a one-shot deal. The Chair explained they are considering Batch testing for the schools. Everyone in the classroom would be swabbed tested. The swabs would be put in the same container. If someone in the group tests positive, everyone in the class would be notified to be tested individually. Testing in schools is easier because the group is somewhat controlled. It will be important as our numbers decline, and we move to returning to school full time.

The Agent asked if anyone had any questions. Mr. Newman asked the Agent what towns are in the five-town consortium. The Agent replied Duxbury, Halifax, Pembroke, and Abington. She was not sure if Kingston was the 5th town. Newman said the reason he asked was to explain to the listeners Pembroke does not have enough responders to meet the minimum requirement for the state. The state requires a minimum 200 vaccines to be administered. The Agent stated most of the Towns on the South Shore do not have enough First Responders to qualify to conduct a clinic. Pembroke and Abington have a great working relationship.

The Chair confirmed the next meeting will be January 26, 2021. The Agent said there may be a need to meet before then. The Chair

The Chair asked for motion to adjourn at 6:20pm. Mr. Newman made a motion to adjourn, Gedutis seconded and all were in favor (3-0-0).

The Chair signed off at 6:21pm.