The regular meeting of the Board of Health was held on Tuesday, September 14, 2021. Michael LaFever, Chairman; Adrienne DeSantis, Secretary; Kelly Lamas, Member; and Andrea Crete, Health Agent were present. Minutes are being recorded by LCTV video and are being transcribed from the video. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mr. LaFever.

Board members read the minutes of August 24, 2021. Minutes were signed by Ms. DeSantis.

Board members signed departmental bills.

Ms. Lamas would like to attend the MHOA virtual conference to be held in October.

Mr. LaFever spoke of an invitation from the School Committee to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony at Harris Brook School on Saturday, September 25, 2021.

There is a request from Jose & Lucilia Nogueira, 164 Higher Brook Drive, to house up to 25 chickens on their property. There are currently roosters on the property. Ms. Crete does not see any reason to not allow for the chickens, pending removal of the roosters. Motion made by Ms. Lamas to allow for up to 25 chickens and no roosters. Seconded by Ms. DeSantis. All in favor 3-0. A letter will be sent to the homeowner.

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There was a request for a Local Upgrade Approval for 38 Shawinigan Drive, owned by Joe Lemieux. Engineer John Kopinsky is asking for a 2-foot reduction to groundwater from 5ft required to 3ft proposed. Mr. Kopinsky is also seeking the use of a sieve analysis in lieu of a percolation test. Motion made by Ms. DeSantis to approve the variance. Seconded by Ms. Lamas. All in favor 3-0.

The meeting was joined by Angela Kramer, by phone.

Ms. Kramer provided a COVID update to the Board. Since September 1, 2021 there have been 114 positive cases in the town. Of the 114 cases, 34 were vaccinated and are considered breakthrough cases. Most of the cases are between the ages of 20-80 years old, with about 31 cases involving children under 19 years old. Ms. Kramer states that there are many cases where people are positive and still going about their daily activities, including attending school. Ms. Lamas made a heartfelt appeal to the residents of Ludlow to comply with the COVID guidelines. If you are showing symptoms or been exposed, to stay home. Ms. DeSantis asked why businesses are not conducting screenings before letting patrons into the establishment. Ms. DeSantis asked if the increase in cases was due to Festa or Labor Day. Ms. Kramer believes it is. Currently the town has a 59% vaccination rate.

Board members discussed a mask mandate for the town. Currently there is only an advisory in place. Mr. LaFever questioned how the Town would enforce a mandate. Ms. Lamas feels that the Town does not have the infrastructure or resources to enforce a mask mandate. Ms. Lamas recommends a strong mask advisory. The department would have flyers and signage made to distribute to the local businesses. Ms. Crete would like to copy the Town's return to work policy to distribute with the signage. Board members offered to help distribute the information.

Board members discussed a mandatory COVID vaccination requirement for all Town employees. Board members do not recommend a mandate for vaccinations.

The meeting was joined by Carrie Ribeiro, Director of Human Resources, by phone.

Board members reviewed the revised Travel Policy and Return to Work Policy. With the new policies, there is a Request for Travel form that would be implemented. Ms. Ribeiro feels that it would not be feasible to implement the request form due to the different unions throughout Town. The Return-to-Work Policy follows the CDC guidelines. Board members agreed on the Return-to-Work Policy.

Motion made by Ms. DeSantis to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m. with Ms. Lamas seconding the motion. All in favor 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne DeSantis
Secretary

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