A special meeting of the Board of Health was held on Friday, October 8, 2021. Michael LaFever, Chairman and Adrienne DeSantis, Secretary were present. Kelly Lamas, Member and Andrea Crete, Health Agent were present by phone. Minutes are being recorded by LCTV video and are being transcribed from the video. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Mr. LaFever.

This meeting is being held to reassess the COVID-19 community transmission and weekly number of positive cases and discussion on a draft Mask Ordinance.

The meeting was joined by Angela Kramer, by phone.

Ms. Kramer provided the Board with the latest COVID numbers. For the month of September, there were 320 positive cases. The week of October 2-9, 2021 there were only 17 cases.

Ms. Kramer has seen a very positive trend downward. There have been a lot of businesses that mandated the vaccine for their employees by October 1, 2021.

The current positivity rate is 5.56%.

Ms. Kramer spoke of the town flu clinic that will be held on October 21, 2021.

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The meeting was joined by Bella Soares, resident, by phone.

Ms. Soares asked out of the 320 positive cases for September, how many were vaccinated? Ms. Kramer stated that 123 were vaccinated.

The meeting was joined by Derek Debarge, Selectman, by phone.

Mr. Debarge asked if the Board of Health is in contact with the State concerning masks being required in schools? Ms. Kramer responded that the schools follow the guidelines set forth from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Mr. LaFever asked if the Board had an opportunity to review the mask policy that was drafted. Ms. Lamas has not completely reviewed the policy. Ms. DeSantis feels that the wording is very formal and official. Ms. Lamas states that the wording has to be written in that way. Board members will review the policy at a future meeting.

The meeting was joined by Dr. Bill Soares, Emergency Physician, by phone.

Dr. Soares spoke of the importance of the COVID vaccine. The hospital has seen more cases in the 30-50 year old range. Dr. Soares also spoke of using surgical and cloth masks to help prevent the spread of COVID, and the safety they provide.

Ms. Lamas spoke of a Public Service Announcement that was produced by LCTV. This announcement will be posted on the Health Department Facebook page. Ms. Lamas stated that the survey that went out through the schools received over 400 responses. The schools are currently starting to go through the information received.

Mr. LaFever would like to continue with providing information to residents and distributing signage to local businesses.

Ms. Lamas spoke with the School Department about the possibility of having a student representative from the High School attend the Board of Health meetings. The Board could use the representative as a way to get information about the vaccines distributed to local students.

Motion made by Ms. DeSantis to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 p.m. with Ms. Lamas seconding the motion. All in favor 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne DeSantis
Secretary

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