The regular meeting of the Board of Health was held on Monday, February 7, 2022. 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 approved the minutes of December 26, 2021; January 12, 2022; and January 26, 2022. Minutes were signed by Ms. DeSantis.

Board members signed departmental bills.

The meeting was joined by Angela Kramer, Public Health Nurse.

Ms. Kramer provided the Board with COVID updates. From 1/1/22 – 1/31/22 there have been 1614 cases. Ms. Kramer provided the following breakdown for the number of cases:

- <10 years old – 144 cases
- 11-19 years old – 226 cases
- 20-29 years old – 269 cases
- 30-39 years old – 287 cases
- 40-49 years old – 224 cases
- 50-59 years old – 251 cases
- 60-69 years old – 115 cases
- 70-94 years old – 88 cases

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Of the 1614 cases for the month of January, 948 were vaccinated. There were 3 deaths from COVID within the town during this time.

From 2/1/2022 – 2/7/2022 there has been only 55 cases. Out of the 55 cases, 29 were vaccinated. This is showing a good downward trend in cases. Ms. Lamas stated that there is new variant starting to present itself.

Plans are being made by the schools to hold a vaccine clinic. This clinic was originally going to be scheduled for February 16, 2022. It is now hoping to be scheduled for March 1, 2022 from 2:30pm – 6:30pm in the Ludlow High School Library.

Ms. Kramer spoke of the Ludlow Boys & Girls Club offering at-home Covid PCR tests. There is a possibility of the Town partnering with them to offer kits for employees.

Ms. Kramer and Ms. Crete gave an update on the proposed testing site in Ludlow. There was a virtual meeting held last week. Ms. Crete is not in favor of moving forward with the company. Mr. LaFever suggested speaking to MassDPH to see if there are recommended companies to provide a testing site. Ms. Lamas would like to know the turnaround time for test results before a company is selected. Ms. DeSantis would like to reach out to AMR. AMR provides the testing site at the Eastfield Mall.

Ms. Kramer spoke of the pedicures being performed at the Senior Center. This has been a great success. The pedicure clinic is held on Thursday mornings by appointment.

Ms. Lamas asked if it would be possible to allow Ms. Kramer to have a standing call-in during the Selectboard meetings. This would allow for Ms. Kramer to answer any questions from the Board. Ms. DeSantis asked if the Covid case numbers are given to the Selectboard prior to their meeting. Ms. Kramer does provide the numbers to them.

There was a request for a Local Upgrade Approval for 151 Bondsville Road, owned by Theresa Blask. Registered Sanitarian Lorri McCool is asking for a reduction in setback distance from the Soil Absorption System to the property line. 10ft required; 6ft proposed. Motion made by Ms. DeSantis to approve the variance as requested. Seconded by Ms. Lamas. All in favor 3-0.

Ms. Crete informed the Board of an upcoming internship program being offered. The program runs through the summer months. Ms. DeSantis would like to see work performed with Covid along with the promotion of vaccines. Board members agree to apply for an intern for the department. It is not guaranteed that everyone who applies is chosen for an intern.

There was a letter received to the Board from Ms. Crete regarding a complaint involving a board member. Ms. Crete asked that the discussion take place in Executive Session. The board member that the complaint was aimed toward requested that the discussion take place in open meeting. Ms. Crete read her complaint to the Board. The complaint stems from communication and comments made by Ms. Lamas during prior meetings. Ms. Lamas states that any comments were not meant to disrespect Ms. Crete in any way. There was a meeting held with the Selectmen in November. During the meeting Ms. DeSantis made reference to how great of a job Ms. Crete was doing within the department. Ms. Lamas spoke during the same meeting of not being able to fully support Ms. Crete's performance, since Ms. Lamas has not seen any performance reviews and has only been a member of the Board of Health for a short time. Ms. Crete also feels Ms. Lamas should not be contacting other members of the department since Ms. Crete is the department head. Ms. Lamas stated she has every right to contact the staff, as the Board oversees the department along with the department head. On the two occasions in question, Ms. Lamas stated the requests were time sensitive. On one of the occasions, Ms. Crete was out for the day.

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Ms. Crete went over the amount of Food Establishment inspections that are required within the town. Currently if each establishment is only inspected twice per year (as the State requires), there are a total of 208. If Ms. Crete performs inspections according to a risk-based schedule, there are a total of 228 inspections. These numbers do not include other types of inspections. Ms. Crete feels she will not be able to perform the inspections, according to the schedule outlined, with her other job requirements. Board members would like to see more inspection reports coming through the meetings. Ms. Lamas asked how Ms. Crete would be scheduling herself to perform the necessary inspections.

Motion made by Ms. Lamas to adjourn the meeting at 6:47pm with Ms. DeSantis seconding the motion. All in favor 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne DeSantis
Secretary