



Town of Oak Bluffs
Board of Health
P.O. Box 1327
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557
508-693-3554 Ext. 127

William White
Chairman

James Butterick
Thomas Zinno
Board Members

Meegan Lancaster
Health Agent

**BOARD OF HEALTH
March 9, 2021 – MINUTES**

Members Present: William White, James Butterick, Thomas Zinno
Others Present: Meegan Lancaster, Garrett Albiston, Lorna Welch

Chairman White called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

APPOINTMENTS: None

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION:

- Letter of grant support for TRI – The Resource, Inc. – Approved

Ms. Lancaster explained that this is the letter we do every year to support the TRI grant that helps people make repairs on their homes including upgrading septic systems. Mr. Zinno made motion to send the letter of support. All in favor.

- Proposed Nitrogen Regulations

Ms. Lancaster stated that she is getting a list from Chris Sidel of the MVC of all the properties in the Lagoon Pond DCPC that is also located in the watershed. She feels the regulation is the correct thing to do but she is not sure about including the entire watershed where some properties are over one mile from the Lagoon. She and Garrett are going to gather as much information as possible so when people have questions she will have correct answers for them and also help the Board make a decision. She feels it is also important to look into other sources of nitrogen such as fertilizer applications and the geese. The State has a website to search for wells which does not show any of our monitoring wells. If we can locate those wells we can get samples from them. Mr. Zinno stated that we should work in cooperation with CWMP for information because they are working on collecting the same data.

There was further discussion regarding the regulation and Ms. Lancaster stated that we can go through it and look at what is going to work best for our town.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- January 26, 2021 – Approved

AGENTS UPDATE:

- COVID Management

Ms. Lancaster stated that she is running the Health and Safety Committee for the schools and last week they revised the documentation for quarantine and for close contacts for school children and staff. They are now more in line with the State guidance. Previously they were utilizing a 14 day exclusion from school so they would do the quarantine test on day five and quarantine through the end of day seven and return to activities on day eight. Because we have more surveillance monitoring we felt as though we could reduce the exclusion from school to 10 days.

The committee is also trying to make sure that the special Ed teachers who teach students that cannot test, wear masks or social distance have priority for vaccination.

The hospital has distributed over 7000 vaccines so far as of Monday. Out of that it was approximately high 3000 to low 4000 of those were second vaccinations which was one of the highest rates of vaccination in the State.

Vaccinations are taking place at the hospital and they are currently not able to do any sort of satellite vaccinations but they are going to people who are home bound. Dr. Zach is taking care of that and they have done about 40 homebound people so far and they are also doing the caregivers at those residences if needed.

The VTA is allowing free ridership for anyone who is going the hospital for vaccines.

Once they get the Johnson and Johnson vaccine they may be able to do off site clinics because those vaccines do not require a second shot which eases the handling, demand and scheduling issues.

We have had a significant decline of cases on the island and just a few weeks ago there were only a handful of states that even had variants present and now majority of States are showing variants. An epidemiologist has said that these variants really are to be taken seriously because vaccines have different efficacy against different variants. It's not 100% fleshed out as to which ones but the Brazilian variant is more resistant to vaccine so we're not out of the woods yet.

Mr. Zinno made a motion to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Lorna Welch, Administrative Assistant