

TOWN OF AYER
BOARD OF HEALTH

TOWN HALL – 1 MAIN STREET – AYER, MASSACHUSETTS 01432 – (978) 772-8213

Minutes of June 8, 2020 - Ayer Board of Health Meeting

Location: First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall

Meeting was recorded by APAC

Members Present: Pamela Papineau, Chairman, May Spinner, Clerk and Patricia Peters
(P. Papineau and P. Peters participated remotely)

Also Present: Heather Hampson, Administrative Coordinator

Chairman Papineau opened the meeting at 5:30 PM

Public Input

None

NABOH Report (B. Braley):

Present: B. Braley, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health

B. Braley stated that Nashoba Associated Boards of Health Director Jim Garreffi, sent out details specific to Ayer and the number of COVID-19 cases. The number of cases increased in the town over the last few weeks due to the federal prison on Devens being counted in Ayer and an outbreak at Apple Valley. B. Braley stated that the office has been very busy with the reopening of hair salons, restaurants for outside dining and other businesses.

Chairman Papineau asked if Nashoba Nursing was still helping with contract tracing.

B. Braley stated that the Tamara Bedard, Nashoba Nursing Community Health Manager, has been working non-stop with contract tracing and answer numerous phone calls and questions. Nashoba did hire a few new nurses to help with the overflow of calls.

Chairman Papineau asked if Nashoba needed anything from the Board.

B. Braley stated the Board just needs to keep telling people to stay home when they can, social distance and wear a mask in public. If there are any questions people should go to Mas.gov for reopening and COVID-19 questions.

Sandy Pond Beach

Chairman Papineau stated that all the Board members should have received copies of emails sent from Ms. Braley, Mr. Robert Pontbriand, Town Manager, and Mr. Jeff Thomas, Parks Director regarding the plans for opening Sandy Pond Beach for swimming.

B. Braley stated that each year the Board of Health issues a permit for the Sandy Pond Beach to open. There are many questions this year on opening the beach on if it is safe to do so. B. Braley stated that the

Parks Commission did submit a reopening plan but there are some unanswered question and concerns with the plan. At this time B. Braley stated that she cannot recommend that the Board vote to issue a beach permit. B. Braley expressed concern over staffing as there will need to be staff that monitors social distancing, face covers and number of people as well as regular staff. B. Braley also stated that the beach is very small compared to others in the area.

P. Peters agreed with B. Braley about a detail staff list needed. Lifeguards should not be monitoring anything besides the people in the water.

B. Braley stated that there still is a state of emergency in place due to the global pandemic and it is the Board of Health's responsibility to uphold public health and safety.

Mr. Robert Pontbriand, Town Manager, stated that the Parks Commission has been asked to submit a reopening plan to answer the questions regarding staff, capacity numbers and questions regarding the bathroom and cleaning. Mr. Pontbriand stated that asking young adults to monitor to enforce people to comply with rules set forth to open the beach is above and beyond to try and get people at the beach to comply with rules set forth by the Parks Commission and Board of Health. Both the Fire and Police Chief were asked to review the Parks Commission reopening plan. Mr. Pontbriand stated that it is not an easy decision and it rests with the Board wither or not to issue the permit.

Chairman Papineau thank Mr. Pontbriand for his comments and contacting the Fire and Police Chief for their opinion.

Mr. Pontbriand stated that it was asked by the Parks Commission if the beach could just be open to Ayer Residents the question has gone to Town Counsel.

M. Spinner stated that the question has gone to Counsel before and the answer was that the beach can not be for residents only.

The Board had a brief discussion regarding the beach staff and the requirement of masks.

Chairman Papineau stated that the Board can request a more detailed plan from the Parks Commission to address some of the Boards questions and concerns.

M. Spinner expressed her concern about the beach reopening stating that she feels it is unsafe and too much for the staff of the beach to monitor face mask of all those present along with social distancing and safety of those in the water.

Chairman Papineau asked the Board if they wanted to vote now on the permit or wait.

P. Peters stated that she would like to see the beach open at some point in the year if a plan and/or situation change.

M. Spinner stated that even in the beach did open in July it would only be for a few weeks.

At 6:27 PM M. Spinner made a motion to close the Sandy Pond Beach for swimming for the 2020 season. P. Papineau seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. (3-0-0)

At 6:27 PM M. Spinner made a motion to not issue a beach permit for the Sandy Pond Beach, therefore

closing it for the 2020 season. P. Papineau seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. (3-0-0)

Additional Funding Nashoba Associated Boards of Health (NABOH)

Present: Robert Pontbriand, Town Manager

Chairman Papineau asked Town Manager, Robert Pontbriand to explain the extra funding for Nashoba.

Mr. Robert Pontbriand stated that when Congress passed the COVID Relief Fund, 25% of the fund goes directly to cities and town for funding to cover COVID related items. Some of the funds were used to purchase PPE for the Police and Fire Departments. Nashoba Associated Boards of Health has hired a few new nurses to help with the added work and contact tracing. Mr. Pontbriand stated that with the Board needs to vote to ratify the spending of \$10,000 from the Board of Health budget for the additional staff at Nashoba. The money was already transferred now the Board just needs to vote to ratify the amount.

At 6:47 PM P. Papineau made a motion to ratify the \$10,000 spent to Nashoba Associated Boards of Health. M. Spinner seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. (3-0-0)

NABOH Materials (B. Barley)

B. Braley stated that she is limiting her time inside Town Hall and has not brought over any items for the Boards review.

Review of Minutes from March 9, 2019

At 6:55 PM, M. Spinner made a motion to accept the minutes of March 9, 2020 as presented. P. Peters seconded. No discussion. Vote to approve. Unanimous vote to approve. (3-0-0)

Board Reorganization

At 6:57PM M. Spinner made a motion to have P. Papineau remain as chair of the Board of Health. P. Peter seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. (3-0-0)


At 6:59 PM P. Papineau made a motion to have M. Spinner remain as clerk of the Board of Health. P. Peters seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. (3-0-0)

Meeting Items

At 7:03 PM M. Spinner made a motion to allow Chair P. Papineau sign all items for the Board during the shutdown of Town Hall. P. Peters seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. (3-0-0)

Adjourn:

M. Spinner motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 PM, and P. Peters seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. (3-0-0)


Pamela Papineau, *Chair*

Patricia Peters, *Member*


Mary Spinner, *Clerk*

Respectfully Submitted,
Heather Hampson, *Administrative Coordinator*