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TOWN OF AYER
BOARD OF HEALTH

TOWN HALL – 1 MAIN STREET – AYER, MASSACHUSETTS 01432 – (978) 772-8220 Ext 145

Minutes of January 24, 2022 - Ayer Board of Health Meeting

Location: Remote Participation via Zoom

Meeting was recorded and broadcast by APAC

Members Present: Stephen Slarsky, Chairman, Patricia Peters, Clerk and Pam Papineau

Also Present: Heather Hampson, Administrative Coordinator and Bridgett Braley from Nashoba Associated Boards of Health

Chairman Slarsky opened the meeting 5:30 PM

At 5:30 PM P. Peters read aloud the notice allowing for remote participation meetings as stated on the posted agenda

Public Input

There was no one present for public input.

Discussion, Solid Waste Regulations

P. Papineau mentioned that she has not heard back from the Department of Public Works yet on their review of the current regulations. P. Papineau stated that she will get in contact with them to let them know that the Board is not looking to revise the entire regulations but would like them to look them over to see if there is anything the Board can add to the regulations to increase the towns recycling credits.

P. Papineau mentioned that B. Braley also wanted to review the regulations as well and wanted to set up a day to meet with her to discuss the regulations.

B. Braley stated that she would email P. Papineau next week to set up a day to talk about the regulations.

Review, Mask Mandate

S. Slarsky mentioned that he has gone around town and there has been a good response to the Boards mask recommendation signs. S. Slarsky mentioned that the Board is hesitant to issue a mask mandate since it could put businesses in a difficult situation to ask people to mask up. S. Slarsky mentioned that the mandate would also be difficult to enforce.

P. Peters asked how other towns are enforcing the mandate.

B. Braley mentioned that she has spoken to some area towns that have mandates and they are having a hard time enforcing the mandate relying on business. B. Braley agreed with S. Slarsky that it is not fair to place the burden on the business stating if people are going to wear a mask they are, and a mandate will not make much difference.

Ayer resident, Michelle Eberle, spoke to the Board in favor of a mask mandate stating that several surrounding towns have them in place and feel it is the right thing to do to protect everyone. M. Eberle

stated that she understands that it may be difficult to enforce but felt it is the Boards responsibility to place a mandate to protect public health has masking is the best way to protect people out in public.

COVID-19

B. Braley mentioned that it appears that the number of cases is starting to go down but that does not mean that people can start letting their guard down. B. Braley stated that Nashoba has posted a home test kit guide on their website to help people use them effectively.

NABOH Update

B. Braley stated that this week's packet included some final food permits as well as a few housing issues that are being followed up on. B. Braley mentioned that she heard from the owner of the RFP Junction, and they should have a new sink in place soon.

Minutes December 13, 2021

At 6:05 PM P. Papineau made a motion to approve the minutes as written. P. Peters seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. (3-0-0)

Minutes January 10, 2022

At 6:06 PM P. Peters made a motion to approve the minutes as written. S. Slarsky seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. (2-0-1, P. Papineau abstained)

Administrative Items

Budget FY2023

S. Slarsky stated that there will be a public form for the fiscal year 2023 budget. S. Slarsky stated that the only item that he sees there being any question on would be the increase of \$3,000 to the education part of the budget. S. Slarsky stated that he feels it is important that the Board members have funds to attend training if they wish.

Annual Report

P. Papineau mentioned that 2021 Town Report needs to be added to the next agenda. S. Slarsky stated that he will draft the report and requested any information be sent to him to include in the report. S. Slarsky will have a draft for the Board to review at an upcoming meeting.

Upcoming Board Meeting

The Board will meet next February 14, 2022.

Adjourn:

P. Papineau motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 PM, and P. Peters seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. (3-0-0)


Steve Slarsky, Chair