

CITY OF GLOUCESTER
Board of Health
Minutes of the Meeting
August 12, 2021
5:30 p.m.
Remote Meeting Via Zoom

Board members virtually present courtesy of a system organized by the City's IT Department: Chairperson: Dr. Richard Sagall; Vice–Chairperson: Robert Harris; Frederick Cowan; Joe Rosa; and Claudia Schweitzer. Present from the Health Department: Interim Health Director: Max Schenk

The meeting started at 5:30 p.m.

This meeting is recorded by video and audio in accordance with state Open Meeting Law. Consistent with the Governor's orders suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law and banning gatherings of more than 10 people, this meeting will be conducted by remote participation. If you are calling in on a phone you can press Star 9 (*9) to request to speak. If you are watching on a computer or device there is a "raise hand" button that you can tap or press to request to speak. Please use either of these options during oral communications to be recognized to speak.

PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATION

Patti Page of 3 Tidal Cove Way appeared before the board. She gave board members an update on the State Mosquito Control Policy. She stated that they have to be proactive in their response in opting out of the mosquito spraying in the state controlled program in 2022 since the state is in the process of changing the mosquito control policy across the state. She stated that if they miss the window the City will not be able to go back and opt out at a later date. She stated that regional coordination will be the best way to proceed.

The board agreed to add the issue to the September Board of Health agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was no "Approval of Minutes".

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no "Committee Reports".

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion Regarding COVID-19 Variants and Response Actions - *Mr. Schenk* stated that the City of Salem recently put a mask mandate into effect as a precaution to the amount of people that visit Salem in October. He gave an update on Salem's new policies they put into place.

Mr. Schenk stated that Gloucester currently has 24 active cases of COVID-19 and one hospitalization. He stated that 14 were vaccinated and seven unvaccinated. He stated that CDC just announced that they recommend regardless of vaccination status people should be wearing masks when inside in public spaces. He stated that the vaccine prevents people from hospitalization of severe effects.

The board discussed ways to make the public aware that the pandemic is not over and when people are indoors around people of unknown status such as a supermarket it is recommended that they wear a mask.

The board discussed whether the schools will mandate masks for students and staff. They agreed to discuss the issue at the School Committee meeting and after DESE delivers guidance on August 23.

The board agreed that a mask mandate at this time is not necessary. They suggested that the Mayor send an all call out to residents with their recommendations. The board agreed to have another meeting next week, August 20 at 5 p.m. to discuss the matter again.

Mr. Schenk stated that he will work with Chairperson Sagall to draft recommendations for the administration to disseminate to the public.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no "Old Business".

CONCERNS OF THE BOARD

Healthy Gloucester Collaborative Navigator- *Ms. Schweitzer* asked if the navigator position for the Health Gloucester Collaborative was filled. *Mr. Schenk* responded that he discussed the issue with Amy Epstein the Regional Prevention Director and they agreed that the best thing to do is to move the grant over to another organization.

Health Director Interview Committee- The board discussed setting up interviews for candidates next week.

Next Regular Monthly Meeting Board of Health- The next Board of Health monthly meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2021 at 5:00 pm.

MOTION by Mr. Harris to adjourn.

Seconded by Mr. Rosa. **CARRIED.**
MEETING ADJOURNED – 6:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

_____/S/ Bobbi Orlando_____

Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by:

_____/S/ Richard Sagall_____

Richard Sagall, Chairperson

Documents Referenced:
August 12, 2021 Board of Health Agenda