



TOWN OF TEWKSBURY BOARD OF HEALTH

Raymond Barry, Chairman
Robert Scarano, Vice Chair
Maria Zaroulis, Clerk
Charles Roux, Member
Anthony Boschetti, Member

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES January 14, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Raymond Barry, Chairman, at 11:03 a.m. online via Webex. Present at the meeting were Maria Zaroulis, Clerk and Charles Roux, member. Also in attendance were Shannon Gillis, Director of Public Health, Ashley Pavlakos, Public Health Nurse and Richard Montuori, Town Manager. Members Robert Scarano and Anthony Boschetti were not present at the meeting.

Mr. Barry stated that there has been misinformation concerning a possible vaccine passport or mask mandate. He wanted to set the record straight that this is not true and not being considered at this meeting.

New Business:

➤ **Discussion of rise in Covid-19 cases**

Mr. Barry showed a graph with the average daily Covid rates. Although the numbers are going in a better direction and showing a decrease this week from last week, one week doesn't make a trend. The numbers have been updated on the Town's website Covid-19 Everything You Need To Know. Mr. Barry stated that the week after Christmas there were 520 new cases, the week after New Years 499 cases and 394 cases this week which is down 105 cases from the prior week which is encouraging. Wastewater sampling was discussed. Mr. Roux stated that the drop in cases is good news but for residents to not be overly happy and to keep the ball rolling and continue the advisory. Ms. Zaroulis stated that she was happy as well to see the drop but to continue what we have been doing for the past couple years and wear a mask out in public. She would hate to see the numbers go up again with a false sense that the surge is over. The numbers are higher with the younger folks and we need to keep an eye on it. The City of Lowell's numbers are going up. Ms. Pavlakos agreed with wearing masks where appropriate and if residents have symptoms to try and test either at home or through a PCR test site. If sick, stay away from others and isolate if positive to help try to stop the spread. Mr. Barry stated that it is common sense and hopefully the peak of the surge is behind us. Residents should still follow the public health advisory and reminded that we are also in the flu and cold season as well. Ms. Gillis stated that the numbers that are posted are only for those who had a positive PCR test as positive rapid home tests are not reflected in those numbers. Ms. Zaroulis stated that many residents are struggling to find at home tests and may be skipping testing altogether but hopefully they are staying home if they are sick. Mr. Barry stated that the Board will meet again next Friday at 11:00am. The next regularly scheduled BOH meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 6pm. At that meeting, the Director will get Tewksbury's updated numbers to see if there is a downward trend and will decide at that meeting whether or not the Friday meeting is needed. Mr. Barry again reminded residents to practice common sense listed in the advisory like we have been doing all along. Mr. Montuori stated that the latest Covid numbers are on the website and the Town will make vaccine clinics available as well. Mr. Barry thanked the residents who have sent in emails and comments to the Health Department and encouraged residents to continue sending in their comments or concerns.

Adjourn:

MOTION: Mr. Roux made the motion to adjourn emergency meeting; seconded by Ms. Zaroulis and the motion unanimously carried 3-0 by roll call vote. Meeting adjourned 11:18 am.

Approved on: 2/17/22