**Town of Nahant**

**Joint Meeting**

**Board of Selectmen and Board of Health
Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday January 5, 2022 at 6:30pm via Zoom**

**Joshua A. Antrim, Chairman**

**Eugene Canty, Vice Chairman**

**Mark P. Cullinan, Recording Secretary**

**Antonio Barletta, Town Administrator**

***Attendance*:** Joshua A. Antrim (JA), Eugene Canty (GC), Mark P. Cullinan (MC), Antonio Barletta (TA)

1. ***Meeting Opening:***

***JA*:** Opened the Joint Meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Health at 6:30pm on January 5, 2021.

***Coronavirus Update:***

***Deb Murphy (Health Nurse):*** The data for COVID cases/testing for the last 2 weeks came in today. From 12/19/21-1/2/22 we had 580 residents tested and 76 were positive. Our numbers have jumped dramatically with 14 of the new cases coming in today and still waiting for more. Last year for the month of December we had a total of 50 positive cases and this December 2021 we had 79 total positive cases. For the month of January 2022 we already have a total of 17 cases. The Omicron variant is spreading quicly and easily. Most of our residents that tested positive were vaccinated and/or boostered so the benefit from that is the people are not getting very sick. The Jesmond had a recent outbreak with 11 residents and 12 staff members test positive.

**% of Nahant Residents who are boostered as of December 30, 2021**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Age Group**  | **Percentage %**  |
| **16-19yr olds** | **28%** |
| **20-29yr olds** | **30%** |
| **30-49yr olds** | **39%** |
| **50-64r olds** | **53%** |
| **65-74yr olds** | **76%** |
| **75yrs and older** | **70%**  |
| **\*\*5-15yr olds still in the process of getting their first and second doses**  |  |

**Vaccine/booster clinic is still going on at Lynn City Hall every Monday and Friday.**

***GC:*** How does the school and teachers test?

***Deb Murphy (Health Nurse)*:** The school right has had an influx of positive cases which was not even from the pool testing that they did yesterday. We will get those results tomorrow. After the kids came back after vacation they were testing positive.

The numbers I give you are only the numbers I get from the state. A lot of the kids that tested positive tested positive at home. CDC and DPH have changed the isolation guidelines and we have requested that DPH clarify the new guidelines.

***John Coulon (Health Officer)***: We are continuing to emphasize COVID testing. Deb and I have been working with other local boards of health, we have signed a formal letter containing questions that will go to the state level asking for guidance and information.

***John Coulon (Health Officer):*** We are looking at the surrounding 13 local communities and their mandates, no town is the same and we need to come up with what our mandate will be.

Discussion on what the mask mandate will be and when it will start.

***MC:*** Made a motion that the BOS ask the Town Administrator to meet with Deb Murphy and John Coulon to develop and adopt a policy for indoor masks and to reconvene with the Board of Health as soon as possible.

***GC:*** seconded

***JA***: Asked town counsel if we need the 48 hour notice if we were to approve a mandate or can we vote now?

***Dan Skrip (Town Counsel):*** Given the situation we are in you can vote tonight especially with the information from Deb Murphy tonight.

***MC***: Asked Dan Skrip if he should withdraw his motion and can we approve a mask mandate with directives to follow up?

***Dan Skrip (Town Counsel):*** In this case I have no problem on the voting of a mask mandate, there are rules with the 48 hour notice but that only includes topics that the Chair would reasonably anticipate would be discussed at the public meeting such as this meeting. But in a situation like this where we are just getting information we are on solid ground to take a vote and not only set a policy but issue a mask mandate.

***TA:*** Asked Dan Skrip if the BOS can motion to approve a mandate to go into place as of Friday January 7, 2022 and for myself to draft the particulars with the criteria included.

***Dan Skrip (Town Counsel)***: yes it would be the BOS acting as the BOH.

***MC***: Withdrew his previous motion and motioned to adopt a mask mandate for the Town of Nahant with conditions to be determined by the Town Administrator.

***GC:*** seconded

***Roll call vote:***

***MC***: yes

***GC***: yes

***JA:*** yes

***GC:*** Asked about local COVID testing and bringing it back to town. TA had come up an idea to do a mail out kit to everyone in town.

***TA***: The Governor announced a few weeks ago a home test kit initiate, the state secured a few million at home test kits and distributed them to critical communities, we were not one of those communities. However the state also conducted an RFP process and established a state contract list with manufacturers for municipalities, schools etc. to purchase the at home tests. We have reached out to some of those manufacturers to see how we can purchase them, how many, how to distribute, what kind to get. They are inundated with orders. We are trying to find the ideal kit however some of the manufacturers require you to order a minimum amount that is way higher than we would need. So we are just trying to find the manufacturer that has the kits we want and the amount we need.

Starting tomorrow the Council on Aging will discontinue their indoor lunch and exercise program but will continue the lunch delivery service.

1. ***Opening Comments***

**\***Christmas tree curbside pick-up will be offered Monday through Friday until January 14, 2022. Remove all lights, ornaments, garland and stands. Trees cannot be in plastic bags. Holiday wreaths, roping and garland are NOT eligible for pick up or drop off.

**\***Christmas Tree Bonfire at Baileys Hill Thursday January 6, 2022 at 6:00pm

**\***Winter Parking Ban: All Vehicles must be parked off the street during the hours of 12am-6am from December 21, 2021-March 20,2021

**\***Town Hall will be closed on Monday January 17, 2021 in observance of Martin Luther King Day

**\***Nahant seeking Snow Plow Drivers-Contact Mary Lowe at 781-581-0026 or mlowe@nahant.org for more information.

1. ***New Business***
2. **Arbor Day proclamation**

***JA:*** Read the 2022 Arbor Day Proclamation

1. **Approve BOS meeting minutes**

***MC***

***Motion:***

“I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the Board of Selectmen meeting minutes from November 3, 2021 and November 17, 2021.”

***GC:*** second

***Roll call vote:*** All in favor

1. **Ongoing Business**

**-**Set TA and Department Head Goals for the year

**-**Town Meeting and CPC articles-what have been acted upon and what needs to be addressed

1. **Preserving East Point**
2. **Town Administrators Report**

**-**Commended the first responders who saved the lives of two people in a recent house fire.

**-**We closed the RFP process for the financial software for the Town Hall. We got a bid from Tyler Technologies/MUNIS and the bid was cheaper than what they originally quoted us. We will be recommending this to the BOS to approve the contract at the next meeting, process will start this summer.

1. **Citizens Forum**

**George Mihovan:** Asked about the RNAV study and about noise monitors being placed along long beach. Who is going to monitor them? Can we put the study on the town website.

1. **Adjourn**

***MC***: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

***GC***: Seconded

***Roll call:*** All in favor

***Meeting Adjourned at***  *7:*47 PM on Wednesday January 5, 2022.

***Meeting Minutes Prepared by:*** Administrative Assistant, Kristin Taylor on Thursday February 24, 2022.

***Meeting Minutes Approved by the Board of Selectmen on the*** \_\_\_\_\_2nd\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_March\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2022.