

Ware Board of Health Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2022 / Selectmen's Meeting Room

Present: John Desmond, Katrina Velle

Absent: Jennifer McMartin

In Attendance: Andrea Crete, Betty Barlow

John called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and announced the meeting is being audio recorded.

John stated first item on agenda is to re-organize and make appointments but will hold off on doing this first in hopes of allowing time for Jennifer to arrive

APPOINTMENT NONE

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1: Resource Waste Services: John reminded board of the remote MEPA Consultation session that was on 5/26/22 at 6:00PM. Former Director of Public Health Judy Metcalf has been in contact with ReSource Waste Systems regarding the Board's technical assistance and finances for public hearing process. They will need to provide Board of Health with around \$100,000.00 to cover the hearing officer, recording of the procedures and technical assistance for reviewing application and providing any needed studies. He has also been in contact with former town attorney David Wojcik and thinks if the is board agreeable, may be able to hire David as a technical advisor. Both Judy Metcalf and David Wojcik handled the previous three public hearings for 198 East Street Ware therefore are very knowledgeable of the process and past findings. John feels the biggest issues with the requested changes for ReSource Waste are both the traffic and the noise. He says according to the application, ReSource is requesting operating hours and with the tonnage increase it would amount to a truck entering or leaving the facility every 4 minutes between 6:00am to 6:00pm Monday through Friday. Katrina gave John her approval to contact David Wojcik to give an update on where the board is at this time.

2: COVID update: Andrea provided board with an update on covid cases from our Contact Tracer Bethany Ames. Numbers are trending down this past month and there are no active clusters known. So far this week 6/12-6/15 there has been no positive cases, last week 6/4-6/11 there was 12 cases, week of 5/27-6/23 was 19 and week of 5/19-5/26 was 27 cases. There is only 1 active isolation with an expected end date of 6/16/22. Andrea also informed board of the 20 boxes of covid test kits (90 kits per box) that were delivered today from the state for Ware. The boxes have an expiration date of September however the state has extended the expiration date of these kits to Dec 2022 and have provided stickers to be added to kits allowing recipients to scan the bar code for expiration date info. She has been in contact with other department heads and will be distributing the test kits. 3 Boxes will go to Senior Center, 7 boxes to Food Bank, 2 boxes to Highland & Hillside Village for Section 8 units, 1 box to be distributed at Rock the Park event 8/18/22, 4 boxes for distribution at the Ware Carnival 6/23/22-6/25/22 and we will reserve 3 boxes for municipal employees and general public as needed. John questioned about the schools getting some, Andrea told him the schools are not in session now and when they do go back into session they get there supplies direct from MA Department of Public Health. John expressed some concern about possible rise in cases in fall and early winter however Andrea informed him the kits are not in short supply, are easily

available now and if needed we could purchase more using the grant funds. John requested an update on Monkey Pox with Andrea responding there was another case, they are finding it's primarily in the gay community with men. It's pretty isolated and spread through physical contact with someone that has the lesions on them, or touching their used clothes or bedding, it's spread through casual communication.

Jennifer has notified us she apologizes but will be unable to attend this meeting tonight.

Andrea updated board on process of hiring a new Public Health Nurse. She has completed her final interviewing and has selected a candidate with many good qualifications and well-rounded experience that should makes her a good fit the position. Andrea is hoping to have her start first week in July. This position is funded through the Public Health Excellence Grant with Quabbin Health District.

3: Meeting Minutes Katrina noted an error in draft meeting minutes and requested adding the word "Protection" to second sentence to say Massachusetts Environmental Protection Agency (MEPA). Katrina motioned to approve meeting minutes of May 18, 2022, with correction John seconded, all in favor.

Board members re-organized effective July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Katrina motioned John Desmond Chairman, John seconded all in favor. Katrina motioned Jennifer McMartin Vice Chair John seconded all in favor. John motioned Katrina Velle Clerk, Katrina seconded all in favor.

John motioned the following appointments effective July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 and Katrina seconded all in favor:

Health Director Andrea Crete, Health Inspector Sainath Palani, Administrative Assistant Betty Barlow, School Doctor Scott Siege MD, Plumbing Inspector Edward Kent, Assistant Plumbing Inspector Michael Pluta, Burial Agent Nancy Talbot, Animal Inspector Thomas Kularski, Rabies Control Office Thomas Kularski and Assistant Animal Inspector William Mansfield. Public Health Nurse to be determined at a later date.

Andrea questioned board of how they want to handle processing the septic permits. The only septic permits that require a vote by the board are for local upgrades and variance because they do not meet the code so those definitely need to go to a board meeting. However when repair septic plans come in after we review them and they meet the code therefore not needing a board vote does the board still want to sign off on them or do they want her to sign. Katrina stated she would be fine with Andrea signing off if they meet the code and John agreed. John would still like to see a list of approved plans showing whether new construction or repair.

Andrea informed the board of an issue we have been dealing with the past couple weeks with Republic Services. Residents have been calling the office to complain about Republic not picking up residents' trash and recyclables. We have been told they were short staffed and down trucks so unable to pick up trash from clients throughout town. The problem we were having is the phone number listed on their application for a permit to operate in town is the same number listed on invoices for clients to call which is an out of state call center. It is very hard to actually get in touch with the Chicopee branch. We did send a letter to Republic and have heard from some of the residents that complained that their trash has now been picked up. John stated he also has Republic Services and his trash has also been picked up. The office also has not received any more complaints so we believe the issue is resolved.

Andrea questioned the Board if they would like her to update them on different things that might not be specifically on agenda for future meetings such as a Director Update with Board agreeing they would like to have this added to the agenda. She also recommends the Board review and

update their tobacco regulations because the latest regulations she could find were from the 1990's. She feels this would be good to do because so many tobacco regulations have had changes to them just based on the new products. She also informed them of how they could actually put a cap on the number of tobacco permits issued in town if they wanted to. Then whenever a business that sells tobacco products goes out of business or sells the business that tobacco permit becomes null and void and another cannot be issued. As the years progress the number of tobacco permits issued goes lower and limits the amount of tobacco and tobacco products sold in the town. John questioned about the regulations for selling marijuana with Andrea stating it is not regulated with Board of Health. Andrea will also have the Hampshire County Tobacco Coalition do a tobacco compliance stings in town. They send an underage youth to try to purchase tobacco and if able to purchase then a fine is issued to the business. If this is something the board is interested in she can try to have all information ready for next meeting and board agrees.

John reminded everyone of the Bulky Waste Day provided by the town and ReSource Waste on Saturday June 18 from 10am-2pm at ReSource Waste 198 East St Ware.

Andrea informed the board of the inspectional software the District is purchasing for food inspections all funded through the Public Health Excellence Grant.

Board members signed the repair DSCP # 22-08 at 168 Old Belchertown Road for Keith Russell and DSCP # 22-09 at 23 & 25 Cummings Road for Denise Chenevert.

John motioned to adjourned at 6:55 PM, Katrina seconded all in favor. Next meeting to be July 20, 2022 at 6:00PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Betty Barlow

Meeting minutes approved 7/20/22

Crete, Andrea

From: Bethany Ames <bames365@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2022 11:12 AM
To: Crete, Andrea
Subject: Re: WARE meeting

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Ware organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Andrea,

Here are the numbers for Ware. Cases have definitely trended downward over the past month! As far as I know, there are no active clusters.

5/19/22-5/26/22- 27

5/27/22-6/3/22- 19

6/4/22-6/11/22-12

6/12-6/15/22- 0

There is one case in active isolation with an expected end of isolation date of 6/16/22

Let me know if you have any questions or need any other info!

Thanks,

 Bethany

On Wed, Jun 15, 2022 at 8:56 AM Bethany Ames <bames365@gmail.com> wrote:
Absolutely! I am currently at a doctors appointment but will get them to you this afternoon.

On Wed, Jun 15, 2022 at 8:55 AM Crete, Andrea <acrete@townofware.com> wrote:

Good morning Bethany, I have a Ware BOH meeting tonight. This is the last BOH meeting in the district Towns this month until July when I have Belchertown. If numbers are trending down, I don't think I will continue to update them on numbers. We have so many other things that are going to be needing their attention soon.

If it's not too much trouble, can you please get me the Ware numbers for the week of May 19 - June? Our meeting is at 6PM tonight. Thank you so much Bethany

Andrea Crete MPH, RS

Director of Public Health

 Quabbin Health District

126 Main Street, Ware MA 01082

Crete, Andrea

From: Bethany Ames <bames365@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 2:46 PM
To: Crete, Andrea
Subject: Covid numbers

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Ware organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Andrea,

Sorry I missed your call this morning. I had several doctors appointments scheduled back to back. I tried giving you a call back but you were busy. I'm going to be home the rest of the day if you want to give me a call back.

Here are the numbers for just Ware. We are averaging about 10-12 cases per day in Ware with a total of about 40 a week. If that trend continues, we'll average about the same when this week is over.

5/1/22-5/7/22: 41

5/8/22-5/14/22: 36

5/15/22-5/19/22: 18 (this number is as of 1pm today and may increase before the end of the day as cases trickle in)

Let me know if you have any questions or want any other numbers!

Thanks,
Bethany

**Bulky Waste Disposal Day- Saturday, June 18, 2022 from
10AM-2PM @ ReSource Waste, 198 East Street**

Items FREE for Disposal

Loveseats

Couches

Box springs

Chairs

Mattresses

Power Equipment (Must be drained of all fluids)

Etc.

Items with Fee

Truck Tires.....\$30.00

PASSENGER TIRES.....\$12.00

FREON UNITS (air conditioners, refrigerators, etc.).....\$22.00

TELEVISION, COMPUTOR MONITORS...\$35

PROHIBITED ITEMS

Food Waste,

Liquids, Fluids, Paints, and Oils

Yard Waste (Brush & Leaves)

Hazardous Waste

(Open to Ware Residents Only)

Made Possible by a Partnership between ReSource Waste Services and the Town of Ware