Minutes of a public meeting held on February 14, 2022, by the Sandwich Board of Health in the Human Services Building Meeting Room, 270 Quaker Meetinghouse Road, Sandwich, MA.

Members Present: Rebecca Lovell Scott, Sandra Tompkins, David Liskowsky

Health Agent Present: David Mason

Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Woodbury

1. The meeting was brought to order by Rebecca Lovell Scott at 7:00 p.m.

The Chair, Rebecca Lovell Scott opened the meeting and informed everyone in attendance that the Meeting was not advertised as a public forum and is not open for public comment.

2. Aids Support Group of Cape Cod (ASGCC)-review of prior presentation made by ASGCC re: syringe exchange and Narcan distribution programs, and possible ratification of the Board of Health’s October 18, 2021 vote to support ASGCC programs

David Mason discussed the presentation packet supplied to the Board from the Aids Support Group of Cape Cod (ASGCC) from the October 18, 2021 Meeting. He also included information on the background of ASGCC and the intent of coming to the Board at that time. The ASGCC is part of the Healing Communities Program and is being funded by the Community Health Center of Cape Cod, Boston Medical Center, The National Institute on Drug Abuse, The National Institutes of Health, and The Substance Abuse and Mental Health program. The program has targeted the town of Sandwich and Bourne to reduce the opioid overdose rate by 40% due to the reported higher overdose incidents in these communities. The ASGCC provides clean needle exchange, prevention and screening proposals, STI screenings, overdose prevention, overdose education, Narcan distribution, health services, and substance use treatment options. The intent of the program is to get addicts into the program to reduce addiction and overdoses. The mobile service locations are established by the ASGCC. They have also partnered with the police and fire department for needle disposal and Narcan distribution. The ASGCC asked for the Board of Health’s support in form of a letter in order to receive State funding. The Board voted at October 18, 2021 meeting to send a letter of support to Kevin Cranston, Director at the Bureau of Infectious Disease at the Mass Department of Public Health. The letter was read into the record. (see attached)

Board Member, David Liskowsky asked for clarification that the ASGCC was not looking for permission to operate in Sandwich. David Mason explained the vote was for support to obtain funding from the State. The location of the mobile services is established between the business or property owner and ASGCC.

Sandra Tompkins made a motion to ratify the Board’s original support of the program on October 18, 2021. The motion was seconded by Rebecca Lovell Scott. The vote passed with a vote of 2-1-0. David Liskowsky, after the vote was passed, made a motion to amend the previously passed vote to support the ASGCC as presented, to add the condition that operating locations are contingent on property owner’s permission with a preference to municipal locations. The motion was not seconded. Therefore, the previous passed vote held.
3. Open Meeting Law complaint from Eileen Starrs, dated December 31, 2021 concerning an alleged violation of the Open Meeting Law

Chairperson, Rebecca Lovell Scott acknowledged and read, in its entirety, the Open Meeting Law Complaint, received from Eileen Starrs, which was received by Board of Health via email December 31, 202 (see attached).

The Chairperson acknowledged Town Counsel’s request to the Attorney General (AG) for an extension on Town Counsel’s (TC) response from the Board until February 17, 2022, which was approved by the AG.

The Chairperson acknowledged and read, in its entirety, TC draft response to the Open Meeting Law Complaint. (see attached).

Sandra Tompkins made a motion to approve the draft response prepared by Town Counsel, as amended (recognizing Rebecca Lovell Scott as the chair at the October 18, 2021 meeting), and that Town Counsel send Board approved final response directly to the AG on behalf of the Board. The motion was seconded by David Liskowsky. The motion passed with a vote of 3-0-0.

4. Acknowledgement of new Board Member, David Liskowsky

The Board acknowledge the appointment of new Board Member, David Liskowsky from the Board of Selectmen to fill the vacant seat of former Board Member, Pamela Dana Snyder for her remaining term.

5. PFA’s & PFO’s results in the Town Spring

David Mason informed the Board that Town had entered a program to test the Town Spring for PFA’s and PFO’s at no charge. The PFA’s and PFO’s results came back as non-detectable.

6. 1 Bay Beach Lane, Emergency Septic Repair Notification

David Mason informed the Board that he issued an emergency septic repair permit with the Sandwich Conservation Commission for 1 Bay Beach Lane due to portions of the system being exposed during the storm. The parcel is a beach front property and are required to relocate the system within 60 days to the front of the property in the driveway area.

7. Director’s update regarding Covid-19

Mr. Mason updated the Board that the Town currently has 32 active Covid cases, with about 2 a day on average. This past January the Town had approximately 325 active cases, with around 50-75 cases a day. The Town’s Covid cases has dropped drastically with a positivity percentage rate at 10%, over an average 14 day period. Mr. Mason told the Board that the Town should be at 5% in three weeks. He also met with the School Superintendent and Chief Burke regarding the mask mandates for the schools. The schools have determined that they will no longer have a mask mandate after February 28, 2022.
8. Reserved for topics not anticipated by the Chair

The Board reviewed the Meeting schedule for 2022.

9. Approval of Minutes from October 18, 2021 and November 8, 2021

A motion was made by Sandra Tompkins to approve the minutes of the Board of Health Meeting from October 18, 2021 and November 8, 2021 as written, seconded by Rebecca Lovell Scott, abstained by David Liskowsky. The motion passed with a vote of 2-0-1.

10. Adjourn Meeting

A motion was made by David Liskowsky to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. seconded by Rebecca Lovell Scott and passed with a vote 3-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Woodbury
Board of Health Administrative Assistant

Date Approved: April 11, 2022