

Present: Chairman Joe Casna, Heidi Whipple, Bill Kavol, Dennis Randall, Janet Wade (Virtual), Kieran Kelleher, Leanne McGuinness (Virtual) and Arthur Boyle (Virtual)

6:04 p.m. Kingston Board of Health Meeting was called to order by Chairman, Joe Casna.

Health Agent's Report – Kieran Kelleher

- Before I get into my report, I'd just like to say thank you to the entire Board and everyone in the Health Department. You've all been nothing but supportive and I thank you for giving me the opportunity to work with such a great community.
- The Town Administrator sent me an email last week looking for an update on when the Board may be revisiting the mask mandate in place for the town owned buildings.
- Letter read from Keith Hickey
Kieran,

I respectfully request the Board of Health consider lifting the mask mandate currently in place at the Town House as well as the Fire, Police, Wastewater, and Water Departments. The Recreation Department would like the mask mandate lifted except for kid's programs. The kid's programs would continue to follow the School Department mask protocols. The Senior Center would prefer to keep the mask mandate in place at their facility until March 1st. The Library Trustees are meeting on February 7th and will discuss the mandate then. The Library Director does expect the Trustees to keep the mandate in place at the Library for the foreseeable future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Keith Hickey

- **Heidi Whipple makes a motion to immediately lift the mask mandate in town owned buildings.**
- Dennis Randall starts discussion by asking what are the official Covid numbers before and after the surge? Would prefer to wait a couple of weeks to lift it.
- Leanne doesn't agree with lifting the mandate yet. Concerned with people bringing it in to the Town House. It is too soon.
- Janet Wade believes that they should err on the side of caution and revisit the mandate in a couple of weeks.
- Bill spoke with a few departments with the Town House. The Town Administrator and the employees feel that the mandate should be lifted. The BOH should listen to the employees.
- Heidi Whipple states that the wastewater is showing that the numbers are coming down.
- Joe Casna asks what happens if employees get sick after the mandate is lifted?

**Joe Casna puts forward Heidi Whipple's Motion to lift the mask mandate immediately.
Vote: 2-3 Not in Favor**

Motion to revisit mask mandate at next BOH Meeting on February 24, 2022

Dennis Randall

Second – Joe Casna

5-0-0

Acceptance of Minutes:

Oct 4, 2021 and October 12, 2021

Motion to Accept: Dennis Randall

Second: Bill Kavol

5-0-0

Continuation of Health Agent's Report - Kieran Kelleher

- Last week the Town distributed over 4,000 Covid-19 rapid home tests to residents. I'd like to say a huge thank you to the Town Administrator Keith Hickey, Mark Douglass and the whole fire department, our amazing Health Department crew with Elise and Leanne, and anyone else who I'm missing that contributed to distributing the tests. We do still have a few boxes left so if anyone from the public would like one, feel free to stop by the Health Department and pick some up.
- I've supplied the Board members with a letter of recommendation for our nurse, Leanne McGuinness, who continues to do amazing work in our community
- The Shared Excellence Grant has been approved for our community; we're just waiting on official confirmation from the state. Between the five towns involved in the Grant there is \$300,000 to be spent before the end of July 2022. Ideas of what we should spend this on have been floated out, but I'd like to put this on the Board's radar and ask that you think of ways we can spend this money to benefit all towns involved. For example, we're thinking of buying air purifiers for restaurants that want them. Any ideas you have can be emailed to me and I'll convey them to the Grant group at our next meeting.
- Janet suggests looking at the Community Assessment that was done to determine where the money is needed to be spent
- Joe would like to see the strength of the applicants on the Grants

Consultant's Report – Arthur Boyle

- Creating a list for the transition from Kieran to the new Health Agent.
- Regarding the letter of support for Leanne, he agrees that Leanne has been doing an amazing job.
- Food inspections ongoing

Nurse's Report – Leanne McGuinness

- COVID-19 cases report- 131 as of 2/6/2022
- Variant of concern report- Omicron
- Vaccine clinics 1/22/2022- 281 people 2/5/2022- 190 people vaccinated Wingate 1/31/2022

- Next clinic Feb 18th town hall (Pfizer and Moderna)
- Feb 24th March 12th and March 26th 9-1pm at KIS
- Distributed COVID-19 test kits Tuesday Wednesday Thursday last week (over 4000 tests) including shelter and Wingate independent living drop off tests
- MIIS 94 percent
- MAVEN all non-covid all caught up, working on catching up COVID cases
- Suggestion to move Masks to be Rescinded March 1st in all town buildings
- COA clinic going well very positive responses

Other Business:

- Variance for 44 Winthrop St. – Gosby and Antoinette Robinson
Reduction in separation between SA and cellar wall from 20' to 11.1'
Reduction in minimum requirement of leaching area from 800 s.f. to 620 s.f.
Reason for variance is that the proximity of wetlands and lot shape limit the location of the system. An I/A system is proposed in lieu of an 800 s.f.
The proposed system is a significant improvement over the existing system which provides adequate groundwater separation and is designed to greatly exceed the minimum 330GD daily design flow.
- Variance granted with Deed restriction to keep at three bedrooms

Motion to approve variance as presented – Joe Casna

Second: Bill Kavol

Vote: 5-0-0

- Joe Casna – Agenda item for next meeting – Invite representative from recycling committee to talk about the plastic bag ban for Kingston
- Goals for Kieran before his departure date of March 4th
- As-builts being required before the final inspections
- A step-by-step procedure for the septic system process
- Food inspection process
- Finalizing Shared Excellence Grant

Healthy Kingston – Janet Wade

- March program is being taped on Thursday, Feb. 17th at 1:00PM
- Joe Casna: State of the Health Dept.
- Leanne McGuinness: COVID update
- Christine Saba RN NP: works in Oncology in Boston – Living with Cancer
- Common signs in men and women
- Common types in men and women
- Current treatment trends
- How to advocate for yourself with your health care
- April Topic: the local environment - a panel discussion possibly with Conservation or Pine Dubois

Next Meeting is February 23, 2022 at 6:00PM

Motion to adjourn at 7:03: Heidi Whipple

Second: Dennis Randall

5-0-0

Elise Desmond, Administrative Assistant

Kingston Board of Health

Approved: MARCH 21, 2022