

KINGSTON BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
May 2, 2022

Present: Chairman Joe Casna, Dennis Randall, Janet Wade, Bill Kavol, Heidi Whipple, Arthur Boyle
Leanne McGuinness joined virtually

6:07 p.m. Kingston Board of Health Meeting was called to order by Chairman, Joe Casna.

BILLS

CONSULTANT'S REPORT

- Letter to Holtec will be redrafted to include Pine Dubois input
- Perc Tests are ramping up for the season
- Food Inspections are being done on a weekly basis. Recently bought some new instruments for inspections
- Food truck inspections are ongoing

NURSES REPORT – Leanne McGuinness

- Covid cases have a small surge and now stand at 47
- Providence House is scheduled to be vaccinated this week
- COA clinics have been going very well. The need is there.
- Vaccine clinic scheduled for the Town Hall on May 13th from 9:00AM to 12:00PM
- Vaccine clinic at KIS on May 24th from 5:00PM to 7:00PM
- MIS is 95% caught up
- No Lyme or other tick-borne diseases reported

HEALTHY KINGSTON – JANET WADE

- Final “Kingston Clipboard” submitted to the Kingston Reporter. It no longer will be published in newsprint.
- PAC-TV has re-done a studio where Healthy Kingston will be filmed. Janet scheduled to view new location and see studio lay-out.
- MGH Institute of Health Professions nurse practitioner students begin their summer clinical practicum at Plymouth Area Coalition for the Homeless and working with the PHN assisting her with COVID vaccine clinics and health initiatives throughout the town. cine clinics and health initiatives in the town.
- Health Assessment for the town to be filled out at Town Meeting, the COA, the Library and the Recreation Dept.
- Gloria Mitchell said to check with the Town Moderator about the Health Assessment handout

INTERVIEW WITH HEALTH AGENT CANDIDATE – PAULA ROSSI-CLAPP

- **Heidi Whipple – We all know you work at the COA in Kingston. Why do you want to stay in Kingston?** I’m invested in the Town of Kingston. I want to stay in Kingston because of my career

path. I feel I've brought the COA to the next level and I'm ready to pass the baton to the next director and be there to support them.

- **Janet Wade – I'm sure you've been aware of the number of health issues we've been addressing over the last couple of years. What would you do to address these issues?**

I would first like to find out what the Board of Health's goals are.

Janet Wade – Our main goal is stability. Can you give us an example of a challenge you faced at the COA? I have been here for four and half years and have had four different administrators. I have had to learn different styles on how to work with them and their different ways of doing things. I've had a stable board at the COA so that's been very helpful.

- **Bill Kavol – How do handle conflict at the COA?** My first reaction to conflict is to hear what the issue is from the individuals if it's a group. And then I suggest that we all sit together and talk. If I can't resolve the issues, I will bring it to the Board. I believe that privacy and confidentiality is important, and I try to resolve things without having to elevate the issue.
- **Dennis Randall – How do you deal with the massive amount of misinformation that is out there and the politicizing of health issues?** Over at the COA we used a lot of different forms of media to get the message out. Whether it be on the website, newspaper, flyers, speakers, Facebook and PacTV.
- **Heidi Whipple – What is your opinion on the Health Dept. having a Public Health Nurse?** Just from having Leanne over at the COA has shown me what an asset a Public Health Nurse can be. Leanne is a fan favorite over at the COA and I think she should be there once a week. She's excellent with the seniors.
- **Janet Wade – What is your management style?** – I'm easy to talk to and work with. I have an easy-going work style and am fair and open to suggestions from my coworkers.
- **Heidi Whipple – Occasionally, there are night calls. Do you feel comfortable about being disturbed in the middle of the night for a call?** I get calls with different issues involving the COA at different times during the night. I am used to being woken up to deal with off hour issues.
- **Janet Wade – We are part of a grant called the Shared Excellence Grant which includes Kingston and four other towns. We just started meeting. Have you administered grants?** Yes, over at the COA we have grants that we have to administer every year. I've obtained them and administered them. I have a very good track record with administering the grants for the COA. I would be honored to help in the administration of this grant.
- **Joe Casna – I would like to talk about your "career path". Do you see this as a steppingstone or is this a long term commitment for you? There are a number of towns that are hiring for the Health Agent position. Why this town? Why now?** – I started out in the direction of Public Health. I have been a department head. I've been furthering my education in the public health realm, and I feel now is the time is to do it. I want to retire with the Town of Kingston. I take my position here in town very seriously and I believe that I would be an excellent Health Agent.
- **How do you separate yourself from the people who want to politicize the Board?** - I have always dealt in facts. I avoid social media as much as I can because that kind of media doesn't deal in truths. I like to stand by my beliefs and the Board's mission to stand strong and promote facts which in turn benefit the community. We must follow bylaws and regulations.

- **Heidi Whipple** – **What are your thoughts on having us to directly report to instead of the Town Administrator?** I look forward to working as a team with the Board. It will be a good chance to work collaboratively
- **Joe Casna** – **We are the host community for this Shared Excellence Grant. We are responsible for tracking the money, the hires, the whole thing. It's a big piece of the puzzle.** I am definitely up for the task.
- **Arthur Boyle** – She has a track record in municipal services, she was prepared for the task of working during the pandemic with the senior population.
- **Janet Wade** – She's got the management skills. She is willing to take on all the necessary training. She also brings a lot of enthusiasm to the position. She is familiar with all the players.
- **Heidi** – I am concerned with the lack of certifications, but she is willing to get them done. What she lacks in certifications she has in all the other requirements.
- **Dennis Randall** – She has the ability to be great in this position.
- **Gloria Mitchell** – It would be a lateral move for her money wise.

Motion to extend an offer of appointment to Paula Rossi-Clapp: Dennis Randall

Second: Bill Kavol

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion to authorize the Chairman, Joe Casna, to represent the Board in negotiations for salary:

Dennis Randall

Second: Heidi Whipple

Vote: 5-0-0

DISCUSSIONS

Shared Excellence Grant

- A Health Survey has been developed for distribution throughout the town to determine residents' health concerns and interests. Locations include the upcoming Town Meeting, the COA, the Library, the Recreation Center, the Town Hall and the Kingston Garden Club.
**Kingston residents only to complete.
- Draft of a Health Promotion and Wellness Program has been designed by Janet Wade and Leanne McGuinness for future consideration by the planning committee.
- Janet Wade continues to remain as Kingston committee representative until a health agent is hired and oriented to the grant and the position.

Draft regulations for Keeping of Non-Commercial Farm Animals

- **Arthur Boyle** – This is a draft regulation from the Agricultural Commission and they are bringing it to the BOH because they are not in the position to enforce regulations.
- **Heidi Whipple** – Why doesn't the Agricultural Commission have the right to enforce these regulations? Is it a pass the buck thing?
- **Arthur Boyle** – I assume they don't have statutory authority with the state regulations.
- **Bill Kavol** – Do we inspect the properties of people who sell eggs? **Arthur** – We do not.

- **Heidi Whipple** – Do we have a Town Animal Inspector? – Yes, Deb Mueller. She’s the Inspector but we are the enforcement authority.
- **Dennis Randall** – Is there any mention of chicken coops in regard to property lines and houses? No, that falls under Zoning.
- **Livestock and Poultry are two different things.**
- **George Zifcak – Brook St** – We are here for the roosters. We have had many problems. The crowing is a nuisance. The wording says there can something done if roosters become a nuisance, but the wording is so general. How can you enforce something that is so general? Would you consider tightening up the language? Maybe define it as public vs private nuisance.
- **Joe Casna** – What has been discussed in the past at the Public Hearings concerning roosters? Hasn’t there been discussion in the past?
- **George Zifcak** – This is just for non-commercial keeping of farm animals.
- **Conversation goes on between Mr. Zifcak and Board about roosters and the impact of the roosters being a nuisance.**
- **Jeanine Checkhart** – This draft is very non-specific. It has no teeth. We have flies, larvae, rats, mice and odors from the manure pile. All the committees pass this issue around to the other committees. It is not being taken seriously. It needs to be more specific.
- **More conversation concerning roosters.**
- **Joe Casna** – We’re going to have to bring both boards together for further conversation concerning enforcement. We will schedule this for a future meeting. We cannot go any further with this conversation because it would be a waste of time at this moment. The Agricultural Commission needs to be part of this conversation.

Next Meeting – May 16, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.: Heidi Whipple

Second: Bill Kavol

Vote: 5-0-0

Elise Desmond, Administrative Assistant
Kingston Board of Health

Approved: AUGUST 1, 2022