

Board of Health
Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room & Remote Meeting
February 2, 2022
9:30 am

Members Present: Lar Greene, Jim Hillis , Greg Dowdy and Terri Longtine, Sec'y

Interested Parties: Chad & Terri Steiner, Linda Nash, Al Pearson

Opened Meeting: 9:35 am

Minutes: Approve minutes: 1/18/2022
(LG) moved to approve (GD) 2nd. AIF

Mask Mandate: (LG) opened meeting to discuss the Selectboards recommendation for a mask mandate in indoor public spaces. The Selectboard previously voted at their January 4, 2022 meeting to require all individuals over the age of 5 years old, regardless of vaccination status, to wear a mask or face covering in indoor public spaces effective immediately. Per Mass General Laws, the Board of Health is the only authority that can approve and vote on this regulation.

(LG) opened the discussion by looking into any alternatives to not wearing a mask. Chad Steiner stated that he does not support the mask mandate and doesn't agree that mask wearing is slowing or stopping the spread of disease. (JH) stated that he would challenge his comments and the data to support that. Al Pearson quoted the CDC and also challenged Chad's statements. He also stated that the World Health Organization (WHO) is the lead in medical research and their opinion is that masks work and are effective in stopping the spread of disease. Linda Nash asked about options. (LG) stated that the option should be for people to wear a mask if they want to and leave it up to the individual person but not to mandate it. After much discussion the board moved to vote.

(JH) moves to support the Selectboards decision to mandate wearing of masks in public spaces. There was no 2nd. (LG) moves to conduct individual vote. (JH) 2nds. AIF.
Call for vote. (JH) – In Favor of Masks, (GD) – Not in favor, (LG) – Not in favor. Vote has been taken. BOH does not support the mask mandate.
However, the board highly recommends wearing a mask per CDC guidelines.

Adjourn: 10:05 am

Next Meeting: TBD