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TRI-TOWN HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Lee - Lenox – Stockbridge

Tritown Boards of Health Quarterly Meeting Minutes: September, 2 2021

In Attendance:

TTHD: Jim Wilusz, Zachary Roberts

TTBOH: Hank Schwerner, John Kearns, Carisa Vincent, Charles Kenny, Diane Romeo, Bob Wespiser, JoAnn Sullivan, Noel Blagg, Rae Williams

Documents: Agenda, 1.26.21 Meeting Minutes, Draft Restricting Sale of Tobacco Products, Covid-19 Dashboard Statistics

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:00p.m.
- II. Review and approve minutes of January 26, 2021 TTHD meeting
 - a. Charles Kenny motioned to approve
 - b. Hank Schwerner seconded the motion
 - c. The board voted unanimously to approve the motion.
- III. Director Wilusz asked the board to discuss Tobacco first, to allow more time for Covid-19 Updates and discussion.
 - a. The Board agreed to move the agenda item.
 - i. Director Wilusz and Kate Fletcher provided an overview of the where the Tobacco Awareness Program stands today, including both its successes and the issues the department is still seeing.
 - ii. Director Wilusz provided the Board with a draft of potential tobacco regulations that would include retiring permits as they are relinquished. The board entertained a possible public hearing on these regulations later in the year.
- IV. Covid-19 Updates
 - a. Director Wilusz and the Board discussed Covid-19 data and rates and the appropriate response and course of action the Board and department should take considering that data.
 - b. Director Wilusz provided a draft of what masking advisory would consist of.
 - i. John Kearns initiated a discussion regarding the pros/cons of releasing a mandate as opposed to a strongly worded advisory.
 1. Director Wilusz and the Board discussed the advisory with input from public health nurses, the public and State Representative Smitty Pignatelli.
 - a. Rep. Pignatelli spoke, offered his opinion and support of the Tri Town masking advisory, he emphasized seeking collaboration

and support from town selectboards and chambers of commerce.

- b. Director Wilusz discussed the issue of enforcement if a mandate is enacted vs. a strongly worded advisory to get the message to the public, without overtaxing the department and sacrificing other services.
- c. The Board decided to issue a Masking Directive and mandated that establishments must place appropriate signage on their doors.
 - i. Charles Kenny motioned to approve the decision and meet again in several weeks to reassess.
 - ii. John Kearns seconded the motion.
 - iii. The Board voted unanimously to approve.

V. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.