

Wendy M. Mead, Chair person  
Jesse Limanek, Vice Chair  
Jonathan Anderson, Clerk  
David Hall  
Jeffrey Bannon



Sutton Town Hall  
4 Uxbridge Road  
Sutton, MA 01590  
Telephone (508)865-8727  
Fax :( 508)865-8721

James A. Smith, Town Manager

Town of Sutton  
Select Board

Meeting Minutes

**Minutes Accepted and filed with the Town Clerk on 8/18/2020 by a vote of 5-0**

5:00 p.m. – August 4, 2020  
REMOTE DIAL IN MEETING

Members in Attendance by video chat:

Chairperson Wendy M. Mead, Vice Chair Jesse Limanek, Clerk Jonathan Anderson & Select Board David Hall & Jeffrey Bannon  
Town Manager James Smith & Deb Jacques, secretary  
Town Finance Director Timothy Harrison

Chairperson Mead calls meeting to order, Select member Hall reads verbiage relating to Gov. Baker and meetings being conducted remotely consistent with his Executive Order of March 12, 2020, due to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of the "COVID-19 Virus."

In order to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 Virus, we have been advised and directed by the Commonwealth to suspend public gatherings, and as such, the Governor's Order suspends the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible physical location. Further, all members of public bodies are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely.

The Order, which you can find posted with agenda materials for this meeting allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting.

Public participation has been offered for this meeting.

Public Forum: N/A

Select, Hall motions to approve as presented minutes from 7/21/20 meeting, Vice Chair Limanek seconds passes 5-0

Select. Hall motions to approve as presented minutes from 7/28/20 Goals & Obj. meeting Selectperson Anderson seconds passes 5-0

Article #2- COVID-19 update- Cheryl Rawinski: Cheryl begins her update by saying the Board of Health has been in full operation throughout the pandemic. Other functions in the BOH continued to require attention such as septic designs, food permits and death certificates. Cheryl offered 1<sup>st</sup> Responders guidance and clarity to virus as well as ensuring PPE was available to them. Conference calls & webinars were held daily and some weekly which averaged 15 hours a week. Cases started rolling in at beginning of March from the towns the Town of Sutton has Nursing IMA's with. Each case from start to finish consumes 4 hours of time, this involved logging into and entering information into Maven for reporting through the state. Cheryl has utilized the school nurses from the towns we hold IMA's with as well as the Sutton school nurses. For Sutton there were a total of 55 cases, currently Cheryl states she is seeing an uptick with people in their 20's or older teens. Cheryl is also working along with Superintendent Friend for a reopening plan for the next school year. Most fall sports (Football, Soccer, Lacrosse) will not be allowed until phase 4 of the States reopening plan which is not until there is a vaccine available. Posters, Social distancing, face masks have also been dealt with. This is a very fluid situation changing sometimes daily. The Select board all offer their thanks and gratitude to Cheryl- Select person Hall says this must be the most challenging public health issue for Cheryl to deal with- Dave clarifies that all of the work done in Sutton was multiplied by 11 with the IMA's. Cheryl replies yes. When asked about funding for this Cheryl replies Charlton's Health Director Jim Philbrooks applied for a regional grant and it can be used for reimbursements on expenses incurred by this pandemic. Tim Harrison is working with Cheryl and Judy to track all the expenses and reimbursements. Tim states Cheryl is the point person in charge for these communities and is doing a great job. There is a lot of record keeping for all expenses, Cheryl offers thanks to Judy Bater and Tim Harrison. Vice Chair Limanek asks about the status of the Sutton residents that did test positive, Cheryl replied most have recovered, there were some related deaths and some nursing home residents in different towns were listed under Sutton as that was their home address. Jesse asks about the availability of PPE, Cheryl says she was fortunate to get PPE through the Fire dept, MEMA denied a request she had filed. Select

person Anderson says he felt the IMA's would over burden Cheryl but after hearing her update she diminished any concerns and actually showed some advantages. Select person Bannon says he is hearing of individuals with quarantine fatigue and asks about the new regulations and the self-quarantining especially with a new school year. Cheryl replies that individuals need to be responsible for their actions and if kids are coming from hot spots into our state they need to self-isolate. Town Manager Smith at this time states he is working with Town Council on a policy that would require employees that leave the state to have a COVID test (at their expense) and provide a negative result in order to come back to work. Jeff asks if there is enough PPE for public safety and school, Town Manager Smith states he believes there is enough, financially it is covered under the CARES Act and FEMA. Jim goes on to say Fire Chief Matt Belsito is a great resource with MEMA and District 7. Chairperson Mead asks for clarification on clusters among younger groups and how it is reported. Cheryl replies any testing is sent to DPH, they in turn forward all positive cases to the local BOH. Wendy asks with the smaller clusters seen is it affecting other members within the household- Cheryl replies she is currently involved in contact testing. . Wendy also asks does Cheryl have authority to enforce mask wearing and Social distancing- Cheryl replies she does have the authority as a Board of Health Director and the police also have the authority to enforce masks and social distancing.

6:03 pm At this time Hurricane Isaias has caused several power outages throughout the Town of Sutton and all connections to ZOOM calls have been cut off. The remaining agenda item will be on the August 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.