



Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen Minutes
Tuesday, August 25, 2020 –4:00 p.m.
VIA TELECONFERENCE

This meeting will be held via video conference, consistent with Gov. Baker's temporary modifications to Open Meeting Law due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Board of Selectmen: Chair Charles Sokol, Selectman Joanne Semanie
Absent: Selectman Ed Silva
Administrative Staff: Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary, Paul McLatchy III, Administrative Assistant to the Boards
Other Attendees: Board of Health Chair Margaret Rice, Rowe Camp and Conference Center Director Benjamin Werner
Audience of Citizens: None

Call to Order: Chair Sokol called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M., a quorum of the board present via remote participation.

MOTION: Roll call vote to call to order:

Chair Sokol: yes

Silva: absent

Vice-Chair Semanie: yes

Background: This group of individuals (self-titled "Covid Group") has been meeting weekly for the past few months to listen to the state Covid-19 briefings and discuss ongoing matters in town related to the pandemic. As Board of Health Clerk Joanne Semanie was elected to the Board of Selectmen, there is now a quorum of the board present during these weekly meetings, and as such, must take place in open session.

Covid Discussion: The following points/topics were addressed during discussion:

There were few changes from the preceding week.

Following Discussion, Chair Sokol prepared the message for the Public Notification System:

- "Voting by mail for the upcoming state primary presents fewer risks of being exposed to the Coronavirus than voting in person. Mail-in ballots will be accepted provided they are received on or before the state primary date of September 1st. In addition to voting by mail, in-person voting for the state primary will be available; however, as previously mentioned, voting by mail presents fewer risks of being exposed to the Coronavirus than voting in person.

- The time of the upcoming flu clinics has changed slightly from 9 AM to 11 AM, although the dates, locations, and formats for those flu clinics remains the same. As a reminder, the first clinic, September 26th, will be a drive-through clinic held at the Charlemont Fairground between the hours of 9 AM and 11 AM. The second clinic, October 3rd, will be a walk-through clinic held at the old Heath Elementary School, also between the hours of 9 AM and 11 AM. The vaccinations provided at these clinics will be at no cost to residents of Rowe.
- Finally, as the numbers of cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus in the State of Massachusetts increase, the Board of Health would like to remind people to stay vigilant in avoiding tick- and mosquito-borne illness. Best practices include avoiding outdoor activity during the dawn and dusk hours, wearing long pants and long sleeves, and applying insect repellent.
- The Rowe Coronavirus task force continues to meet regularly with the Dept of Public Health, and is staying informed about the various reopening phases and the effect each phase will have on the operations of the Town of Rowe.
- We will continue to keep you updated on these and other coronavirus topics on an on-going basis, typically with weekly updates or when prudent.”

Adjournment:

MOTION: Chair Sokol made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:35 p.m. The motion was seconded by Selectman Semanie.

MOTION: Roll call vote to call to order:

Chair Sokol: yes
Silva: absent
Vice-Chair Semanie: yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary

Approval Date: *SEPTEMBER 3, 2020*

Approved:



 Chuck Sokol, Chair



 Selectman Joanne Semanie

Documents:

Agenda: August 25, 2020