



Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen Minutes
Tuesday, April 6, 2021 –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

Audience: Board of Health Chair Maggie Rice, Park Commission Member C. Selmi Hyttinen

Call to Order: Chair Sokol called the meeting to order at 4:02 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 last Saturday 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:
Maggie Rice, Board of Health Chair reported the following:

- There are 2 cases of Covid19 in Rowe
- 45.6% have been vaccinated in Rowe or 153 residents
- It is a time to be cautious as the numbers are going up with infection
- Maggie attended the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) roundtable and there was indication that the state would allow local clinics for the next 3 weeks with 1100 doses
- Two local sites would open at either Berkshire East or Mohawk Trail Regional School
- C. Selmi Hyttinen asked about the Park protocol for the summer and Chair Rice said there were still many unknowns about the future. He asked about whether the Park would be restricted to town residents this summer to limit numbers on the beach. There were plans to hire lifeguards and have a 2 week Nature Program.

The following message was prepared for the Public Notification System:

“Good Evening Rowe Residents,

The following is the weekly message regarding the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic.

Although vaccination efforts are underway (45% of Rowe residents have received at least their first dose of vaccination!), the Coronavirus is still present in and around our community, and active case numbers continue to grow. Please remember to remain vigilant, and continue following all CDC guidelines including wearing a mask that covers both your mouth and nose when in public or when near others outside your household, even if you or those around you have been vaccinated.

Anyone may pre-register for a vaccine through the state website at vaccinesignup.mass.gov where your information will be kept on file to notify you when you become eligible to schedule an appointment for a vaccination. There is also information available regarding local vaccination clinics at www.franklincountymavaccine.org. Finally, eligible people can sign for a vaccination at any site statewide by visiting <https://www.maimmunizations.org>, although please be prepared to wait in queue for some time as there are many people attempting to sign up.

For those who do not have access to the internet, need assistance with registering, need transportation to a vaccination site, or are unable to leave their home, an organization known as LifePath is facilitating appointments for people who are elderly or disabled. You may reach them at 413-829-9285, and they will help you through the vaccination scheduling process, and may be able to provide additional services such as transportation.

The option to vote in the upcoming municipal election via absentee ballot, which presents fewer potential exposure risks than voting in person, is available for anyone who would rather vote by mail than come in-person to vote. Voting via this method is safe and secure, and those votes will be counted along with and via the same process as all in-person ballots cast on election day. Absentee ballots applications are available in a folder at the entrance of the town hall. Alternately, ballot applications can be obtained on the town website at Rowe-ma.gov or by contacting the Rowe Town Clerk at 413-339-5520, or via email at townclerk@rowe-ma.gov

The Rowe Coronavirus task force will continue to keep you updated on these and other coronavirus topics on an on-going basis, typically with weekly updates or when prudent.

Thank you, and stay healthy”
~Chuck Sokol

Adjournment:

MOTION: Chair Sokol made a motion to adjourn the meeting 4:52 p.m. The motion was seconded by Selectman Semanie.

MOTION: Roll call vote to call to order:

Chair Sokol: yes

Silva: absent

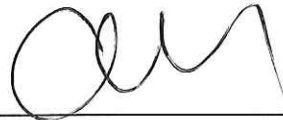
Vice-Chair Semanie: yes

Respectfully Submitted,

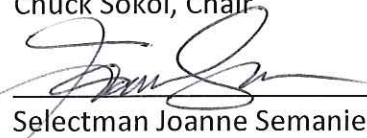
Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary

Approval Date: *APRIL 15, 2021*

Approved:



Chuck Sokol, Chair



Selectman Joanne Semanie

Documents:

- Agenda April 6-Covid Group, 2021