



Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen- Covid -19 Group
Minutes
Tuesday, August 31, 2021 –4:00 p.m.

Board of Selectmen: Chair Charles Sokol, Selectman Joanne Semanie
Absent: Selectman Ed Silva
Administrative Staff: Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary

Audience: Board of Health Chair Maggie Rice, Ben Werner Rowe Camp & Conference Center Director

Call to Order: Chair Sokol called the meeting to order at 4:02 P.M.

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:

- Vaccinated individuals have less than 1% of hospitalizations resulting from contracting Covid-19 and seem to be affecting people who have co-morbidities
- Most Covid-19 Cases are coming from unvaccinated people
- BOH Chair Rice attended several Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) meetings and there was discussion about the FRCOG towns joining together to reinstate wearing masks at indoor public buildings gatherings
- A mask order was reviewed.
- There was discussion whether to require town employees be vaccinated and whether there would be repercussions
- There are plans through FRCOG to have clinics for the 2nd booster shot along with the annual flu clinics
- It was agreed that BOH Chair Rice would present to the Board of Health a proposal to require masks be worn in all town buildings open to the public along with promoting social distancing and limiting time together by Wednesday, September 8, 2021. Masks would be required in the fitness room as well.

The following message was prepared for the Public Notification System:

“Good Afternoon Rowe Residents,

The following is an update regarding the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic.

Due to increasing Coronavirus case numbers nationally and regionally, as of Wednesday, September 8th, masks will be required in all public indoor spaces, except for people under the age of five (5) years old or for those that wearing a mask is contraindicated for medical reasons.

Public indoor spaces where masks will be required for entry on or after September 8th include all town-owned buildings, including the town hall, public safety building, town garage, library, school, park office, and transfer station office; masks will also be required in other indoor spaces not operated by the town where business with the general public may happen, including the church, the historical society buildings, the camp and conference center, or any other place where members of the public are invited or otherwise allowed to enter to interact with any other person in order to transact any public or private business.

A copy of the complete mask mandate order as approved by the board of health is available on the Rowe town website.

The Rowe Coronavirus task force will continue to keep you updated on these and other coronavirus topics when prudent.

Thank you, and stay healthy."

~Chuck Sokol

Adjournment:


MOTION: Chair Sokol made a motion to adjourn the meeting 5:21 p.m. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie was accepted. (Vote 2-0-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary

Approval Date: *SEPTEMBER 16, 2021*

Approved:



Chuck Sokol, Chair



Selectman Joanne Semanie

Documents:

- Agenda August 31, 2021