

Eastern Highlands Health District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom
Thursday, February 17, 2022

Members present: E. Anderson (Andover), R. Aylesworth (Mansfield), J. Elsesser (Coventry), H. Evans (Mansfield), L. Hancock (Tolland), S. Powers (Scotland), T. Nuccio (Tolland), J. Rupert (Bolton), D. Walsh (Coventry), M. Walter (Columbia), E. Wicinski (Willington)

Staff present: R. Miller, C. Bradshaw-Hill, M. Brosseau

Others: J. Roman, First Selectman Chaplin

J. Elsesser called the meeting to order at 4:31 pm

L. Hancock made a MOTION, seconded by E. Anderson to accept the minutes of the January 20, 2022 meeting as presented. MOTION PASSED with H. Evans abstaining.

R. Miller introduced H. Evans to the board.

Financial Report for the period ending 12/31/21

R. Miller presented an overview of the financial report for the period ending 12/31/21. E. Anderson made a MOTION, seconded by L. Hancock to accept the financial report as presented. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Town Reports

Andover E. Anderson informed the board that the town of Andover has ended the mask mandate in town buildings. In addition, there was an accident that caused damage to the Veterans Monument Park.

A new business is coming to Andover and is possibly a Dollar General.

Columbia M. Walter reported that the town of Columbia has ended the mask mandate in municipal buildings. M. Walter noted that speeding on highways continues to be an issue.

Coventry D. Walsh informed the board the town will go out to bid for repairs on the library.

Scotland S. Powers reported that the town of Scotland has received a grant to be used to improve Town Hall.

Tolland L. Hancock informed the board that Tolland will most likely be lifting the mask at the end of the month. L. Hancock reported that the town is hesitant to lift the state of emergency.

Chaplin J. Roman reported that the town of Chaplin will lift the mask mandate on February 28th. J. Roman informed the board that Chaplin is celebrating their 200th anniversary this year. The celebration will culminate with a parade and fireworks on September 10th.

Mansfield H. Evans and R. Aylesworth reported that Mansfield has extended the mask mandate for the town. The mandate has been extended until the meeting on 2/28.

Bolton J. Rupert reported there is a meeting next week to discuss the mask mandate.

Willington E. Wiczenski reported there is a meeting next week where they will discuss the mask mandate. E. Wiczenski informed the board that the Love's Truck Stop project is expected to complete mid to late spring. School building committee is moving in the direction of a consolidated school.

Coventry J. Elsesser reported that the UConn School of Engineering and School of Nursing will be giving Coventry 200 air filtration units they are building to be used in school buildings. J. Elsesser informed the board that the town is Evaluating ARPA projects. The town has received a trails grant to build trails that will connect the Homestead to the Hop River Trail.

J. Elsesser informed the board that he is sending a mask mandate draft to council to change the existing policy.

J. Elsesser reported that a second soccer field and recreational football field will be constructed.

D. Walsh questioned how restaurants are doing in the towns. The following was stated:

Columbia: Doing well

Willington: Restaurants are doing well yet struggling to keep staff.

Mansfield: Pains were experienced in the downtown area when UConn delayed the return to campus. Otherwise, restaurants are doing well.

Directors Report

COVID-19 Activity Update

R. Miller reported on the activities related to COVID-19 in which his office has engaged. R. Miller noted that the case prevalence is decreasing. However, despite the downward trend, all towns in the district, except Scotland are in the red zone. There was discussion regarding when there would be a switch in the way numbers are reported. R. Miller noted he is still waiting for DPH to make changes.

R. Miller informed the board that extend powers to commission regarding the mask mandate through June 30th. While the mandate will be lifted on February 28th, the DPH recommendation may still be to mask indoors. R. Miller noted that he is still waiting for guidelines and hopes it will be released by early next week. Following review, R. Miller will issue a statement to schools.

R. Miller informed the board that the CDC has announced they will update their mask and contact tracing guidelines.

S. Powers informed the board that Scotland Elementary school sent out a survey regarding masking to parents. R. Miller noted that many schools are taking a similar approach.

E. Anderson stated that Andover sent out a similar survey.

H. Evans encouraged the board to consider putting out education regarding masking.

R. Miller reported that he is still waiting on approval for the ELC2 grant.

Reported that the health district has given out 12240 doses of the vaccine at over 200 clinics.

Quarterly Activity Report period ending 12/31/2021

R. Miller highlighted that, new this year, the Food service license renewal process is being done through the online system.

R. Miller informed that board that the Public Health Nurse position has been posted for a third time and interviews occurred Wednesday.

There was discussion regarding health district permitting kiosks at each of the town halls. R. Miller requested that an email be sent to him with the decision made at each town.

J. Elsesser initiated discussion regarding Hospitals in the district area. In particular that Manchester and Rockville Hospitals are being bought out by Yale New Haven.

Adjournment

E. Wicinski made a MOTION, seconded by M. Walter to adjourn the regular meeting at 5:32 pm. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Next Board Meeting – April 21, 2022, 4:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Miller

Secretary

