Egremont Board of Health
January 6, 2022, 10:00 am
Meeting held via ZOOM
Board Members is Attendance: Charles Ogden, Chairman, Dr. William Rose, Ellen Maggio
Also Attending: Peg McDonough, Egremont ARPA Coordinator, Sandra Martin, BRPC
Recording: Juliette Haas, Director

1) Chairman Ogden called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and noted the meeting was being recorded to Zoom. Chairman Ogden asked for a moment of silence to mark the one-year anniversary of the insurrection on the Capital. Members of the board and staff were introduced. Motion made and seconded to adopt the minutes from the December 6, 2021 meeting with modifications. Vote taken 3-0. Motion passed.

2) **Purchase of COVID Rapid/Antigen Home Testing Kits** Chairman Ogden suggested the town purchase 3000 home testing kits (each having two tests per box) with two full kits for every Egremont residence with extra kits reserved for members of fire, police, first responders and municipal employees. Sandra Martin of BRPC has located a vendor in Springfield, MA that would sell at a full pallet of 7500 kits at $12.50 per kit. Sandra felt the remaining kits would be purchased by other towns. Peg McDonough stated the funding for this purchase could come from the town's ARPA account which are available. A memo from the BOH with the total purchase price would need to be submitted. BOH members Rose and Maggio felt this purchase is the best use of those funds. Motion made and seconded that the Board of Health recommend the Board of Selectmen place an order of 3000 COVID home testing kits with funds coming from the ARPA account. Vote taken: 3-0. Motion passed. Due to the urgency of this matter, Chairman Ogden stated he will reach out to the Selectboard immediately and suggest a special meeting be held to discuss this purchase. Chairman Ogden thanked Sandra and Peg for attending the meeting and for their assistance.

3) **Distribution of COVID Home Testing Kits** Once the home testing kits are purchased, the EBOH will offer to coordinate the distribution to the community. The kits could be delivered to Town Hall and kept locked in the Town Clerk's office. Distributions could take place over the course of two to three 2-hour events to avoid crowds at any one event. Drive-thru distribution could take place at either French Park or Town Hall. A new copy of the Transfer Station sticker list will be used. The BOH will ask members of the Fire Department or Police Department to assist with traffic flow. The COA can assist with reaching out to seniors in the community who may not get email notifications or have ambulatory issues.

4) **COVID**
   Cumulative cases: 39
   State positivity rate: 15.03%
   Berkshire County positivity rate: 9.88%
   Booster clinics: The Alliance will continue to hold booster clinics at BCC in Pittsfield.
   Testing sites: BHS is now performing 800 PCR tests a day at their three sites

The Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative is holding antigen testing sites twice a week in Sheffield and Lee.

Community message: Director Haas will send a draft message to the full board on Friday

SBRSD: The School Committee issued a letter to state and local legislators regarding their desire to have all students vaccinated.

Town Hall: the Select Board voted at their meeting on January 6th to close Town Hall to the general public for the next 30 days due to high infection rates. The BOH agreed with this proactive decision.

5) **Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative (SBPHC)** Motion made and seconded that the Board of Health recommend to the Select Board that Egremont join the SBPHC. Vote taken: 3-0. Motion passed. Chairman Ogden has requested this topic be discussed at a future SB meeting. Director Haas is scheduled to meet with members of the Collaborative on January 7th to discuss the procedures for joining.

6) **Recent field work:**
    Title 5/12 Prospect Lake Road/Alliance/under further review
    Title 5/ 30 Pinecrest Hill Road/Alliance/pass

7) Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am. Next meeting scheduled for January 27th.

Juliette Haas
Approved 1/27/2022