

Minutes of Meeting – September 10, 2021; meeting called to order at 9:30am. Present: Marybeth Mitts; Ed Lane; Neal Maxymillian; Dave Roche. Absent: Warren Archey.

Announcements: MM announced the 20th anniversary 911 memorial procession organized by Representative Pignatelli for Saturday. Approximately thirty public safety vehicles and seventy public safety personnel will travel from Lenox to Sheffield. The procession will begin at 11am at the Mass DOT Lenox office and end at 11:43am at the Sheffield Green.

MOTION by NM, seconded by DR to approve the Minutes of September 1. 3/0 vote with EL abstaining.

Citizens Open Forum: None.

Consent Agenda: None.

Tri-Town Health Mask Mandate: MM stated that the Josh Billings Runaround has decreased their participants from 600-300, and with COVID cases rising, the Board needs to consider whether to cancel Apple Squeeze. EL stated that he supports the Tri-Town Health Mask Mandate. And while Apple Squeeze is only one day this year, it could be well attended by both locals and those from other areas. MM stated that the Jazz Stroll will occur this weekend, and they are aware that they need to social distance and wear masks. In addition, this event typically only brings locals out. She agrees that perhaps Apple Squeeze needs to be cancelled. NM wants to make sure that the Town is very strict in following the mandate as Berkshire County on a whole is suffering from the Delta variant. He said that in addition to the Josh Billings dropping the number of participants, there will be no gathering at Tanglewood following the race. He is against any type of entertainment, and can't see how people could social distance at Apple Squeeze. In addition, it would be difficult for the police and vendors to enforce masking and social distancing. He is not in favor of holding Apple Squeeze.

Board of Health Chair Dianne Romeo stated that the number of COVID cases is rising, and she questions if Apple Squeeze could occur safely. Her recommendation is to skip the event this year. DR stated that we all knew that there was a possibility of having to cancel the Apple Squeeze due to an uptick in COVID cases, and he feels that the event should be cancelled. Chamber Director Jenn Nacht reminded everyone that Apple Squeeze is mostly for kids and it is scary to think of them being in a large crowd. She understands that the event may need to be canceled this year out of safety. Dr. Charles Kenney, Chair of the Tri-Town Health Department, stated that everyone has pitched in voluntarily for the welfare of everyone else (towns, restaurants, businesses). But this virus is coming back, and everyone has to work together to beat this disease. NM stated that he would like to see the Town prohibit gatherings altogether where social distancing cannot be maintained.

MOTION by NM, seconded by DR for the Town of Lenox to adopt and comply, through both establishments and restaurants, etc., with the Tri-Town Health Mask Mandate effective September 7, 2021. 4/0 vote. MOTION by NM, seconded by DR that in addition to the mandated compliance with the Tri-Town Health Mask Mandate effective September 7, 2021, that the Town of Lenox recommend that we cease any events that result in gatherings of people that cannot social distance. 4/0 vote. DR then stated that he feels that the Chamber of Commerce should make the announcement that Apple Squeeze will be canceled, at which point Jenn Nacht stated that the Chamber is announcing that Apple Squeeze is canceled.

Dianne Romeo invited the Board to attend the Board of Health's next meeting on September 22 via Zoom.

New Business/Liaison Reports: None.

By roll call, DR, NM, EL and MM voted to go into Executive Session at 10:10am to discuss strategy with respect to negotiations with union personnel (DPW).

Minutes Taken By: _____ Minutes Accepted By: _____
Mary Ellen Deming Clerk
Director of Administrative Services Board of Selectmen