

**TOWN OF WEATHERSFIELD, VERMONT
SELECT BOARD**

**Select Board
Martin Memorial Hall
5259 Route 5, Ascutney VT
Monday, November 29, 2021
6:30 PM
REGULAR MEETING**

MINUTES

Select Board Members Present: David Fuller
Kelly O'Brien
Paul Tillman
Michael Todd (remotely)

Select Board Members Absent: Joseph Jarvis

Brandon Gulnick, Town Manager

Others Present:

Rep. John Arrison	Gail McKenzie		
FloAnn Dango	Beth Renaud		
Susanne Terrill			

1. Call to Order

Mr. Fuller called the meeting to order at 6:39 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Comments from Select Board and Town Manager and Citizens on Topics not on the Agenda

There were no comments from anyone.

4. Review minutes from previous meetings – 11/15/2021

Additions/corrections/deletions:

a. None

Motion: To accept the minutes of November 15, 2021 as presented

Made by: Mr. Todd **Second:** Mr. Tillman

Vote: All in favor

5. Local Mask Mandate Discussion

Mr. Fuller said the number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise. He stated that, because of this and because the Governor has not declared a (second) state of

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emergency, the Vermont Legislature had come together in special session and crafted a bill to give towns the opportunity to pass local mask mandates as a means of helping to control the spread of the virus. The Governor has signed the bill.

Mr. Fuller called this meeting of the board to discuss the matter and to decide whether or not to pass a mask mandate for Weathersfield.

Mr. Fuller asked for thoughts, comments and opinions from board members, staff and members of the public that were present at the meeting both in person and remotely.

Rep. Arrison said that the town has a lot of latitude under the legislation. It can be extended to all employees of the town and to private businesses. He called for the board to set an example of leadership and mandate masks for all employees within and outside of town buildings. He cited the nonexistent air circulation system at the town office as a reason for masking up within that building.

There were some opposed to any kind of mandate, citing personal choice as the reason.

There was also concern about the economic effects of requiring private businesses to mandate mask-wearing by their customers.

There was discussion about which of the town's buildings this would apply to; how it would be enforced and if there would be any allowable exemptions. Would masks be required at all times when inside the building or only when dealing with members of the public?

After two hours of discussion, Mr. Fuller polled the board as to whether each thought the board should do something or nothing. Three members favored doing something, one preferred to do nothing. Mr. Fuller called for a motion.

Motion: To require masks to be worn when entering Martin Memorial Hall, to be reviewed on a 30-day basis.

Made by: Mr. Tillman **Second:** Ms. O'Brien

Mr. Arrison asked about other town buildings. It was agreed to extend the policy to all town buildings (Martin Memorial Hall, the library, the 1879 schoolhouse, the highway garage, and the two fire stations).

(Amended) Motion: To require masks to be worn when entering all town buildings, to be reviewed on a 30-day basis.

Amendment accepted by Mr. Tillman and Ms. O'Brien

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Vote: All in favor

This discussion will be revisited at the December 6th meeting.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

7. Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

Made by: Mr. Todd **Second:** Mr. Tillman

Vote: All in favor

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

deForest Bearse

WEATHERSFIELD SELECTBOARD

David Fuller, Chairperson

Joseph Jarvis, Selector

Kelly O'Brien, Clerk

Paul Tillman, Selector

Michael Todd, Vice- Chairperson