



OBSERVER REPORT

Board of Health Date - 12/29/21 LWVM Observer - Thomas Krueger

Members in Attendance via Zoom - Andrew Petty, Todd Belf-Becker, Sec. Andrea Flaxer, Joanne Greer Miller, Helaine Hazlett

Meeting - Emergency

Meeting held in a Handicapped Accessible Location - not applicable

Public allow to Participate in the Meeting - NO via Zoom.

AGENDA

To ENACT THE EMERGENCY MASKING MANDATE of 12-27-21

Dr. Belf-Becker opened the meeting noting the disrespect and lack of decorum by the public at meeting on 12/27/21. He explained the "open meetings" (see <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/updated-guidance-on-holding-meetings-pursuant-to-the-act-extending-certain-covid-19-measures>) can be conducted in multiple ways and the public may or may not be allowed to speak. He then went on to explain how the public comment would be allowed at the present meeting: the time allotment for public comment will be limited to 30 minutes; those wishing to speak were to use the "raised hand" icon; each person is to state name, address, and will be allowed 2 minutes to speak; questions will not be answered. After this time the Board will vote on the masking mandate.

In attendance via Zoom were ~300 people. Twenty-four people spoke during this time. Those in favor included doctors, nurses, and others, noting need for public safety, civic responsibility, not insensitive to the business concerns, supportive studies, impact from corona virus infection on family, etc. Those opposed included many business owners, a doctor, and others. They cited "freedom of choice", loss of business and ability to stay in business if extended to 3/8/22, lack of evidence supporting mask efficacy, not consulted or notified before the mandate went into effect, etc. The public comment time had been extended to ~45 minutes.

After the public comment, each board member acknowledged the comments and thanked all for the civil and courteous fashion that they were delivered. The Board then

moved and passed the masking mandate from 12/27/21. The text of the mandate is available on the town website, marblehead.org. The meeting was adjourned.