

Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2021

Members present for roll call vote – Vice Chairman John Burrows, Secretary Dan Burns, Member Andrew Deslaurier, Member Kimberly Conway, Chairman Michael Rosa. Also present Town Manager John Curran, Asst Town Manager Cathy O’Dea and Zoom Administrator Clancy Main.

Open Mic – no one signed up.

Selectman Deslaurier thanks all that came out to vote. He is appreciative and grateful for all of the support he received. He wants to thank residents who put their name on the ballot. He looks forward to representing the Town of Billerica for another term.

Chairman Rosa thanks the board for their support and to Selectman Deslaurier on his win. He comments that the board pushed out the date to pay residential taxes, held the line on water/sewer rates, supported local businesses by returning their renewal fees – a savings of about \$90,000. The board allowed outdoor dining for businesses to recoup revenue. The board made sure COVID 19 testing and shots were made available in Billerica as long as supply was made available to the town. A plan to fund PHR facility put in place. Purchased Masonic

Hall, purchased 41 acres of land in center of town for possibly senior and veterans center. It was a busy year.....boat launch back on track. No services were cut during all of this. It was an honor for Chairman Rosa to serve the residents of Billerica.

Nominations for Chairman – Selectman Burrows nominates Dan Burns. Seconded by Selectman Deslaurier. Selectman Burrows – AYE, Selectman Conway – AYE, Selectman Deslaurier – AYE, Selectman Burns – AYE, Chairman Rosa – AYE

Roll call vote (5-0)

Nominations for Vice Chairman - Selectman Burrows nominates Selectman Andrew Deslaurier for Vice Chairman. Seconded by Selectman Rosa. Selectman Burrows – AYE, Selectman Conway – AYE, Selectman Rosa – AYE, Chairman Burns – AYE, Selectman Deslaurier – AYE

Roll call vote (5-0)

Nominations for Secretary - Selectman Burrows nominates Selectman Michael Rosa for Secretary. Seconded by Vice Chair Andrew Deslaurier. Selectman Burrows-AYE, Selectman Conway-AYE, Chairman Burns-AYE, Vice Chairman Deslaurier-AYE, Selectman Rosa – AYE

Roll call vote (5-0)

Selectman Conway speaks briefly under reorganization. She thinks the last year has been embarrassing and should never have happened. She gives Chairman Burns her complete support.

Her focus is to service the people of Billerica.

Chairman Burns wishes to thank the board for them selecting him to lead the board this year. He wants to work completely and openly with all boards and for all residents.

Vacancies on Boards and Committees (see attached)

No appointments were made at this Select Board meeting

Minutes

Motion to accept minutes of January 25, March 8, March 15 and March 22, 2021 – seconded by Vice Chair Andrew Deslaurier. Selectman Burrows-AYE, Selectman Conway-AYE, Vice Chair Deslaurier-AYE, Chairman Burns-AYE, Secretary Rosa-AYE

Roll call vote (5-0)

Town Managers Report – (see attached)

AARP TAX AID

Recreation Report

Professional Recognition for Office Mike Henckler and Lt. Gerald Roche

Farmers Market

Hybrid Meeting

Fire Station

Capital Interviews

Yankee Doodle

Planning and Economic Development Director Position

Town Meeting

Pond Street Sewer Break

COVID 19 Update

Secretary Rosa requests the Board send out letters of recommendation to Office Mike Henckler and Lt. Gerald Roche. Seconded by Selectman Burrows. Vice Chair Deslaurier-AYE, Selectman Conway-AYE, Selectman Burrows-AYE, Secretary Rosa-AYE, Chairman Burns-AYE

Roll call vote (5-0)

Secretary Rosa comments it's a positive step to revitalize Farmers Market. He thanks Mr. Curran for taking on the challenge for a hybrid meeting. Mr. Rosa would like to take tour of fire station. Good news about Yankee Doodle.... Planning and Economic Dev moving in right direction. COVID is concerning. How did that happen? Has school dept weighed in on that? Mr. Curran isn't sure. It's spread out.

Vice Chairman Deslaurier speaks about Lt. Roche and Officer Henckler are consistently doing a great job and he's glad Billerica employees get recognition. Hybrid meetings can't come soon enough. It's a hope to have zoom and in person meetings. Mr. Curran says same thing is being done in auditorium and planning board meeting room. Can we actually vaccinate town meeting members? Mr. Curran hopes it is. He's been talking to state board of health. He makes a minor point that he is superglad that kids are going back to school full time.

Selectman Burrows goes through items and confirms his kudos. Asks Mr. Curran about hybrid..... we will get funding from COVID Cares Act.

We can use the money to supplement the loss to the town. Selectman Burrows is excited to get Yankee Doodle Weekend back in business. He says DPW is getting the job done and thank you to them! He (Mr. Burrows) has question for Mr. Curran about a sewer pipe on Pond Street pitched the wrong way.... Mr. Curran said he will keep the board updated. Stay vigilant and wear masks.

Selectman Conway comments on AARP. She recognizes COA and the hard work they do. She is impressed about the Farmers Market group pooling their resources to get this up and running. She asks Mr. Curran about hybrid meetings....project a zoom meeting on the wall. Still working out details. Ms. Conway says she thinks this is a great idea. Shes wondering if we have to limit “live” people? She doesn’t think we can limit. She’d love to have a site visit at fire station. She hopes Mr. Curran can get all town meeting members vaccinated.

Chairman Burns says AARP program is fantastic. What time do lights go out at PHR complex? 10:30? Great that programs are coming back. Kudos to law enforcement officers from Billerica. Simply put – volunteers are extremely important to the Farmers Market! He is here to help in any way possible. Hybrid meetings cannot come quick enough. The zoom feature is a plus. He’s encouraged about the new fire station. The town needs Yankee Doodle back! Hats off to DPW for herculean work! Regarding COVID – encourage people to get vaccinated.

Order/Reorganization of final warrant and potential Board vote

Secretary Rosa thinks the board should move article 29 and 30 forward

On the warrant. He thinks it should go after the 3 budgets. He thinks article 30 should go before article 29. He makes a motion to have article 30 precede article 29. Seconded by Selectman Burrows.

Selectman Conway agrees with Secretary Rosa. She doesn't agree to move article 30 ahead of 29. Can she move 29 and 30 after article 12? Secretary Rosa makes a motion to move article 30 and 29 come after article 12. Seconded by Selectman Burrows. Selectman Conway-Aye, Selectman Burrows-Aye, Selectman Rosa-Aye, Vice Chair Deslaurier-Aye, Chairman Burns-Aye.

Roll call vote (5-0)

Secretary Rosa makes a motion that the board puts article 30 after article 12 and article 29 after article 30. Seconded by Selectman Burrows.

Selectman Conway speaks about second motion. This is the way the Planning Board voted for it. Legal has recommended this. She would like article 29 to go after 12 and article 30 to go after 29. Selectman Deslaurier asks town manager is 29 a majority vote and 30 a 2/3 vote? Yes - according to Mr. Curran. 29 and 30 should follow 12. Secretary Rosa responds about the legal aspect. He reads letter from Atty Mark Reich. Mr. Rosa disputes the order of these articles. He stands by his motion to have article 30 go before 29 and he thinks town council supports that. Mr. Curran asks Chairman Burns to speak. Town council says to do it the way its presented on the warrant. Mr. Rosa has a letter. He is in disagreement and stands by his motion.

Selectman Conway says this isn't our article. The Planning Board is very capable to do their work....let them do it. We should stick with the

order that Planning Board has suggested. She would like it to go 29 and 30.

Chairman Burns has concerns with 29 not being discussed first. It needs a 2/3 and if it doesn't pass it makes a bad situation worse. If we don't pass the mixed use we are in some ways being blackmailed because they can vote it down and leave the PUD in place. Get rid of the PUD. Mr. Curran walks through the scenario....we all have different opinions. If you put repeal of PUD first you will loose half of the people because they don't know what the outcome will be.

Secretary Rosa says every person agrees the PUD is such a disaster. The cleanest way is to get rid of PUD and then discuss mixed use overlay. Selectman Conway says the election just sent a clear message.

Selectman Deslaurier says leave it the way it is.

The motion is to swap 29 and 30 on warrant. Selectman Burrows-Aye, Selectman Conway-No, Vice Chair Deslaurier-No, Chairman Burns-Aye, Secretary rosa-Aye

Roll call vote (3-2)

Billerica Cleanup Greenup Day

Mary Leach speaking about a signup sheet from companies and individuals. She has had great response. Secretary Rosa makes a motion to put 4 signs up on the common about the day (starting April 13 and continuing until April 26, 2021. Seconded by Selectman Burrows. She appreciates that but she has no signs.....Mr. Curran says he can put it on the wooden sign stating the date. April 24, 2021 10-12. She appreciates his efforts.

William F. Eggo VFW Poppy Drive

Secretary Rosa makes a motion to approve the poppy drive. Seconded by Selectman Deslaurier. No discussion. Selectman Burrows-Aye, Selectman Conway-Aye, Selectman Rosa-Aye, Selectman Deslaurier-Aye and Chair is Aye.

Roll call vote (5-0)

Armenian Genocide Commemoration

Raise Armenian Flag Friday April 23, 2021 at Town Hall. It is such an incredible event. It should never be forgotten.

Mr. Steven Dulgarian is a member of the committee. Selectman Deslaurier thanks Mr. Dulgarian for reaching out to Billerica. Selectman Conway thanks him for coming forward. Secretary Rosa thanks him as well. What day would work best. Mr. Curran thinks Saturday, April 24 on Billerica Common. Mr. Dulgarian is asking it be raised on Friday, April 23, 2021. Selectman Conway adds that Select Board needs to make a Proclamation. Selectman Burrows asks if this is an every year thing. Can we make April 23, 2021 Armenian Day in Billerica?

Secretary Rosa makes a motion that the Select Board makes April 23 Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day in Billerica, approves a flag raising on the Common and issues a Proclamation. Seconded by Selectman Burrows. Selectman Burrows-Aye, Selectman Conway-Aye, Selectman Deslaurier-Aye, Selectman Rosa-Aye, Chairman Burns-Aye.

Roll call vote (5-0)

Next meetings are April 26, May 8(possibly before town meeting), May 10 and 24

Secretary Rosa makes a motion that the Select Boards adjourns under executive session regarding Linda Lessard vs the Town of Billerica. Civil Action #1881CV00425, Linda Lessard vs. Town of Billerica. Civil Action #2181CV00286, request for superseding order of conditions with the Dept of Environmental Protection, DEP File #109-1426 and Linda Lessard and Mark Lessard vs Town of Billerica Zoning Board of Appeals Civil Action #1881CV01930

Seconded by Selectman Burrows. Selectman Conway-Aye, Selectman Deslaurier-Aye, Selectman Burrows-Aye, Selectman Rosa-Aye, Selectman Burns-Aye

Roll call vote (5-0)

A true attest Copy

Patricia E. Battcock



MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: John C. Curran, Town Manager

CC: Cathy O'Dea, Clancy Main

SUBJECT: Town Manager's Report, April 12, 2021

DATE: April 9, 2021

AARP TAX AID

The COA Director has reported that by this Wednesday, April 7th The AARP Team, fully supported by Board Member Bill Neeb and some 12 BCOA volunteers, complete 302 tax submissions. Over the next 1-2 weeks they will reprocess 40 cases for unemployment and premium tax credit issues. She also wanted to express a BIG thanks to AARP's Harry Gong, George Tribuna and Dave Petersante who worked with the BCOA team to establish a very safe and efficient process in their Lobby and Community room on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays to deliver this valuable service to the community.

Recreation Report

As of April 1st, the lights at the PHR Basketball and Tennis Courts have been activated for the season. The lights will stay on until 10:30 each night through October.

After going full remote with programs for the winter, the Recreation Department is excited to be bringing back in-person programming this spring! Programs will begin in the coming weeks and registration is currently ongoing. Please check out their website for a list of programs and register today.

This past Wednesday, the Recreation Department launched registration for summer camps – including their Superstars program and Neighborhood Parks programs. The response has been overwhelmingly positive with several weeks already fully registered.

Due, in part to great weather, the Recreation Department has been working closely with both the Parks Department and Facilities Department to ensure all fields are ready for the youth sports organizations. By all accounts, the leagues have been pleased with the efforts of each department and are off to a smooth start. All leagues will continue adhering to local and state Covid guidelines.

Professional Recognitions

Officer Mike Henckler

Officer Mike Henckler was recently activated by the United States Coast Guard Reserve and is assigned to a vaccination site at York College in Queens New York. Recently, the Vaccination Site where Mike is assigned reached 100,000. We are proud of Mike, his service in the Coast Guard and his most recent accomplishment.

Mike is approaching 20 years of service with the Billerica Police Department and has been activated into military service several times over the years, serving overseas as well as deployments for natural disasters in other states. Mike is a dedicated Patrol Officer and is heavily involved in our training program here in Billerica, he trains in Use of Force/ De-escalation as well as being a Police Mountain Bike certified instructor. I would like to congratulate Mike for this milestone at the Vaccination Center and recognize him for his dedicated service to the residents of this Town as well as his service to our Country in the United States Coast Guard.

Lieutenant Gerald Roche

On March 30, 2021 Lieutenant Gerald Roche was sworn in as member of the Joint Terrorism Task Force. (JTTF) By being a member of the JTTF this allows Lt. Roche to be privy to Federal Investigations in the area as well as surrounding communities. The FBI continues to facilitate better working relationships with its Law Enforcement partners and being a member of this task force meets that need.

JTTFs serve as a national resource and create familiarity among investigators and managers before a crisis by conducting frequent training to maintain the specialized skills of investigators, analysts, and crisis response teams. JTTFs pool talents, skills, and knowledge from across the law enforcement and intelligence communities into a single team that responds together.

The task forces coordinate their efforts largely through the interagency National Joint Terrorism Task Force, working out of FBI Headquarters, which makes sure that information and intelligence flows freely among the local JTTFs and beyond.

Lt. Roche has long been a trusted partner with the area agents assigned to the Lowell Field office. Being involved with Bank Robbery investigations, Narcotic investigations and in one instance he tracked down the suspect in a Human Trafficking investigation and obtained a full confession in the process. His work ethic as well as being a graduate of the FBI National academy simplified the background investigation which ultimately provided him a Security Clearance which is the final step before being sworn in on the Task Force

Farmers Market

This office, Board of Health, the Council on Aging, and the Fire Department, met with a group of residents who are looking to create a new Billerica Farmers Market. The previous group who had ran the farmers market have decided they are no longer able to do so. This new group is excited and knowledgeable but has a few things to work out including insurance and incorporating as a nonprofit. They plan to look into these issues over the next few weeks.

The Council on Aging also had a very strong relationship with the previous market. The Market at the end of the year would donate a sum of money and would also give the COA free tent space in exchange for the use of their lawn. The COA is writing up a similar agreement with the new market. They hope to be able to begin sometime in June / July.

Hybrid Meeting

As the COVID-19 situation evolves and eventually begins to wind down meetings will begin to take place back in Town Hall. In an effort to continue public participation and transparency the Town is working with BATV to figure out how to run these types of meetings. The current infrastructure in Town Hall will not support a hybrid meeting with some people on zoom and others in person. Currently all the rooms lack speakers, feedback eliminators, and other technical equipment needed for a meeting to happen. BATV has had two companies take a look at the job and give a cost estimate. The Town is exploring how and if we would need to bid the job. This project would be covered under COVID Cares Act Money. I will have an update at the next meeting establishing a timeline.

Fire Station

The Fire Station is moving along as expected. Masonry work is ongoing. Visual changes take place almost daily at the site now.

Hutter Construction earlier in the job had a COVID-19 issue with a sub-contractor and no work took place for over a week. The Town recently reached an agreement with Hutter Construction to move the substantial completion date out 5 days to September 29, 2021. As the project progress if the Board would like to make a site visit I would be happy to facilitate.

Capital Interviews

Clancy Main, Mark LaLumiere, Denise McClure and I interviewed three firms to help conduct the Capital Facilities Study. The Town has narrowed it down to two and will bring those forward to the committee. I expect a meeting to be scheduled in the next few weeks.

Yankee Doodle

This office met with the Yankee Doodle Committee earlier in the week. Currently, they are planning to go forward with the normal Yankee Doodle celebration in September with COVID-19 precautions. They are planning to use the teacher parking lot for vendors and Town Hall for visitor parking. They chose this site due to complaints from vendors about visibility in previous years.

Planning and Economic Development Director Position

This office in conjunction with three planning Board Members has interviewed candidates for this position. We are hoping to make an offer this week.

Town Meeting

We are in the process of surveying members of Town Meeting about their COVID comfort level. We are also inquiring as to who has been vaccinated and if members would be willing to be vaccinated if the Town could arrange it. Based on initial data it appears that most members are more comfortable with the Zoom format that we have used in the last two meetings as opposed to congregating in one room.

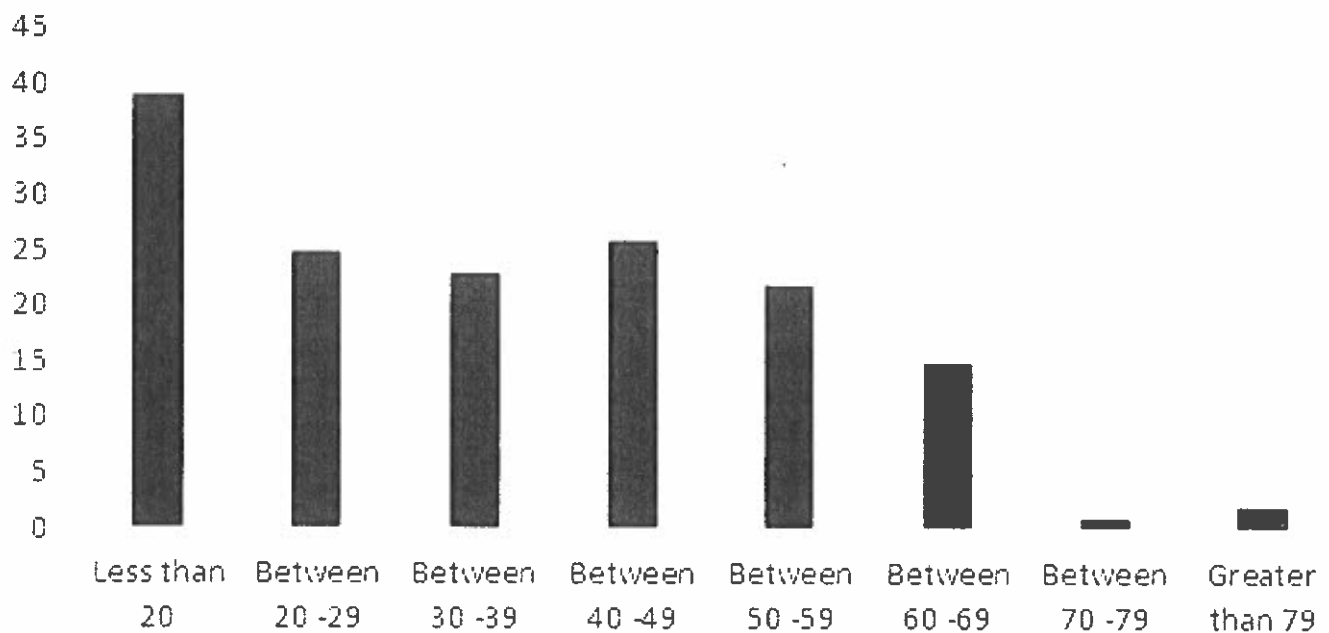
Pond Street Sewer Break

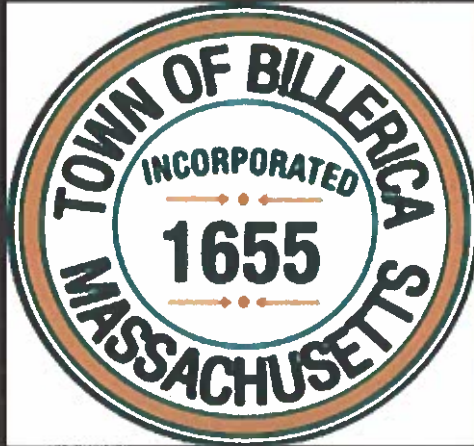
The Town has finally received all the approvals needed from the MBTA and work on the permanent fix will begin on Monday. The Town is negotiating to leave the temporary bypass installed to serve the bigger project that will take place in one year.

COVID 19 Update

The Town has entered the high-risk category. In fact, we are spiking a a greater rate than the county and the state. This suggests that people in Billerica have eased up on social distancing. There is a high instance of cases in people under 20. The schools also seem to be experiencing higher numbers. The one bright spot is that is virtually non-existent in individuals over 70. This is an indicator that the vaccine is working. The positivity rate has gone down to 5.04%. Billerica has 20% of its' residents that are fully vaccinated. We continue to lag behind surrounding communities which may be a contributing factor. We have still not reached 70% with people over 75 (62%) and we are at a 47% vaccination rate with people within 65 and 74 years of age.

Town of Billerica
Age of Active Cases





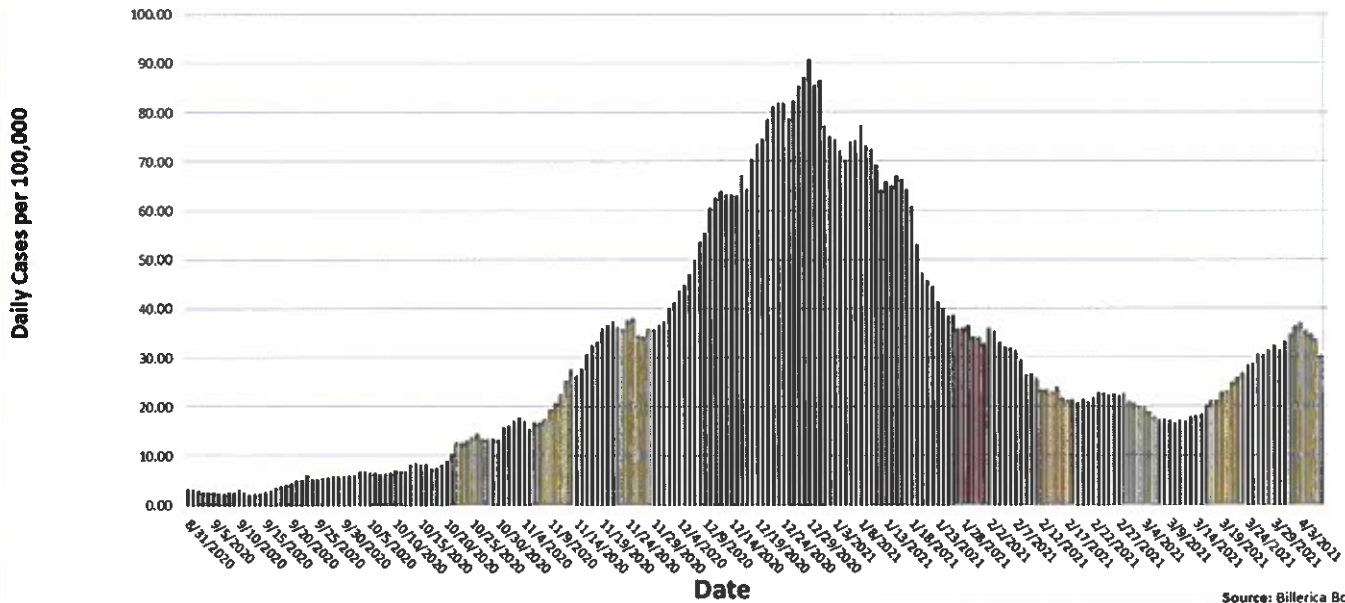
Long Term Care Facilites	118
Middlesex House of Corrections	88
Health Care Workers	116
Apartment Complexes	278
Deaths	35
Active Cases	153
Recovered Cases	3418
Total Cases to Date	3606
Cases per 100,000	24.47
Seven Day Case Average	10.86
Number of Cases last 14 days	149
Positivity Rate	5.04
Billerica Status	[REDACTED]

Friday, April 9, 2021

Source: Billerica Board of Health

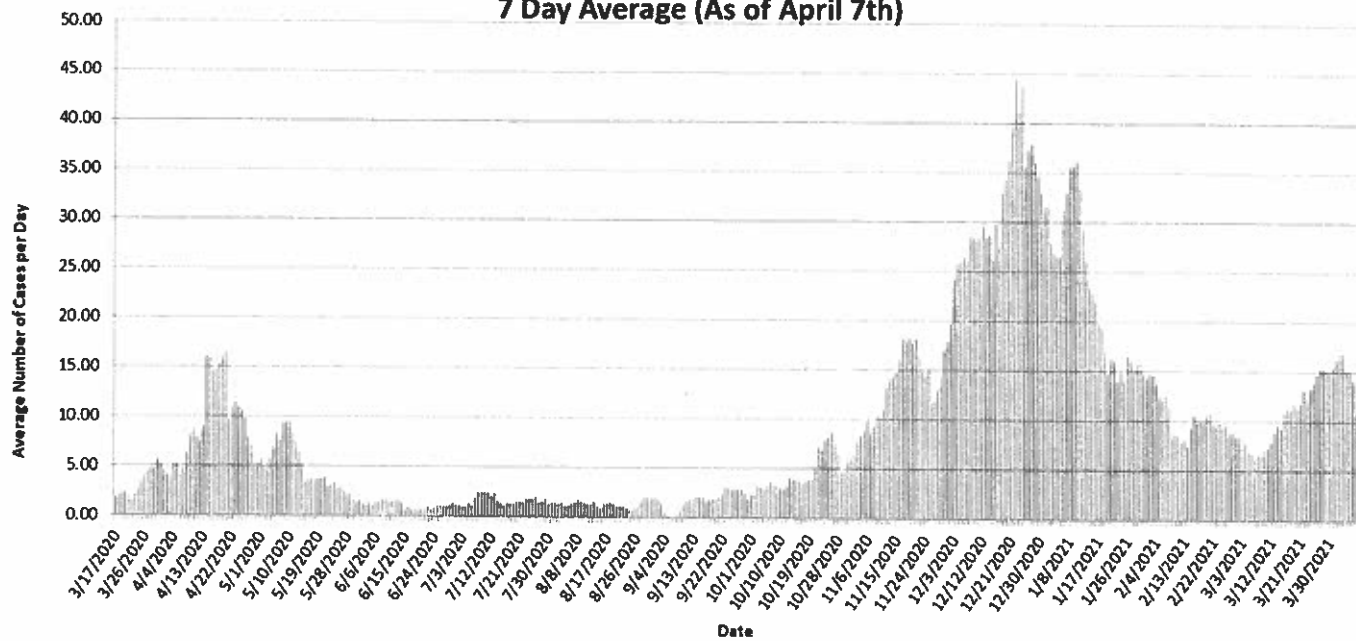
**Town of Billerica
Average Daily Cases per 100,000 People**

Less than 10 cases per 100k per day = Green
 Greater than 10 cases per 100k per day and less than
 or equal to 5% positivity testing rate = Yellow
 Billerica's positivity rate is 5.04%



Source: Billerica Board of Health

Town of Billerica COVID 19 Cases 7 Day Average (As of April 7th)



Source: Billerica Board of Health