

February 8, 2021

Dear Mr. Bunek,

I question where your suggested proposal for Leelanau County, based on the Great Barrington Declaration, fits in the roles and responsibilities of the Leelanau County Commission. The roles and responsibilities of the County Commission stated on the county website indicate no mandate or mention of action in areas of public health.

"The Board of Commissioners of Leelanau County is the legislative body and discharges its duties as required by federal and state law. It is the function of the Board of Commissioners to: set policy for the County; adopt and monitor an annual budget; equalize property tax assessments; set fees; contract for a yearly audit of all County funds; and implement the recommendations of its auditing firm to ensure the legal and efficient use of tax dollars. The Board of Commissioners appoints other boards and commissions, adopts ordinances, buys land for county use and sells county-owned property, and enters into contracts and agreements on behalf of Leelanau County.

The Leelanau County Health Department is actively taking every measure to follow the federal and state health guidelines as they roll out. They are managing a phased vaccination program, promoting mask wearing and social distancing, and keeping the residents updated daily on the virus and their activities.

The County Commissioners are bound to discharge their duties in line with federal and state law and not in areas of public health. You do not have the epidemiological knowledge and governmental mandate to override county, state, and federal public health experts on matters of life and death; others have addressed these issues quite clearly.

Masks, social distancing, and immunization are the keys to developing herd immunity in a way that protects vulnerable populations. Without masks and social distancing and vaccinations, the only way to reach 'herd immunity' is through death, disease, and hardship. How would this benefit the people of Leelanau County?

I urge you to drop this proposal and spend your efforts helping your fellow Commissioners to set goals and objectives that benefit the county as a whole, not pursue a divisive ideological agenda.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Kelley Lowe
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