

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
TOWN BUILDING COUNCIL ON AGING
May 20, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m., present by remote were Chairperson Susan Green (SG), Arne Soslow (AS), M.D., John G. Schuler (JS), M.D. and Robert DeFrancesco (RD) D.M.D. Also present were Julia Junghanns (JJ), Director of Public Health, (Tom Fay)(BOS), Louise Miller (LM) Town Administrator and Patti White Department Assistant

SG: In compliance with revised Open Meeting Law requirements, we will live stream the meeting on WayCAM, Public Comments will be received by phone at 508-358-6812 for this meeting. The phone number will be active during the public comment portion of the meeting. Thank you in advance for your patience; we intend to address all calls that come in during the public comment period.

9:05 a.m. Review information and Vote regarding Gov. Bakers Phase I re-opening plan

JJ: There is a lot of paperwork being received regarding Gov. Baker's Phase 1 reopening plan. All documents are on the state website, we are reviewing the "Guidance to Municipalities on Enforcing COVID-19 Orders" for businesses that will be reopening on May 18th and May 25th.

The State is supplying self-certification compliance and attestation forms that all businesses will be required to complete and submit to the Town and post in their businesses. Businesses must develop a safety plan to prevent spread of COVID-19. A list of businesses is being compiled and outreach will take place, providing the necessary information to complete their safety plans and compliance forms. The Health Department will be the repository for the documents; we expect businesses will comply with the rules. Town employees (Police, Health and Building) from various departments often do inspections in these businesses as part of their daily routine and have been asked to report back if there are any issues. We will communicate to businesses that there will be random inspections for compliance.

SG: Motion to require businesses reopening, as part of the Baker COVID-19 reopening plan, to self - certify and submit a copy that certification to the BOH. Wayland BOH believes random unannounced site visits by town entities will be performed to verify compliance.

SG: Motion for certifications requirements for business to reopen:

- 1) Require essential services and businesses specifically designated for reopening to develop a written Covid-19 safety plan outlining how they will prevent the spread of Covid-19**
- 2) They must self-certify that the business will operate in compliance with all applicable and mandatory workplace safety standards.**
- 3) The self-certification must be provided to the Board of Health/Health Department prior to reopening.**
- 4) The town will conduct random unannounced site visits by town entities to verify compliance**

**Second RD: vote: JS – yes, AS – yes, RD – yes, SG - yes vote 4-0 all in favor
Vote to follow progressive fining enforcement mechanism:**

The Board had a brief discussion regarding the fining mechanism; they want to educate and guide local businesses but will use the tools should there be problems.

SG: motion for BOH to follow progressive fining enforcement mechanism, with no discretion:

- 1) Verbal consultation & redirection**
- 2) Written redirection**
- 3) Fine of \$100.00**

- 4) Fine of \$200.00
- 5) Fine of \$300.00
- 6) Cease and desist order

Second AS: vote by roll call : RD – yes, AS – yes, JS – yes, SG – yes Vote 4-0 all in favor.

Vote to continue to conduct inspections following social distancing protocols:

- 1) Inspections conducted by town staff are currently done outside only and using pictures of work done inside structures
 - a) No interior inspections of occupied spaces

Vote to continue to conduct inspections,

LM: This vote effects three departments: Fire, Building and Assessing, these departments routinely enter homes for inspections in the course of daily duties. Since COVID 19, they do not enter homes to do inspections; to date these departments will continue this for the next 2 -3 weeks while town develops protocols for PPE training for certain types of interior inspections. The Fire department is conducting training regarding for their medical calls and will work with the building and assessing staff for training. All employees have town issued ID badges; the Town will continue to develop protocols of whom and why staff can enter buildings. At present unoccupied commercial inspections are happening, but residential inspections are still to be addressed. JJ: This would also apply to the Health and DPW/water staff who enter houses for housing complaints (landlord/tenant) and water issues.

SG: Motion to continue to conduct routine inspections by town staff following social distancing protocols, until appropriate protocols and trainings have been developed. Second JS

Roll call vote: AS - yes, JS – yes, RD – yes, SG - yes vote 4-0 all in favor.

Beach Reopening

JJ: A number of questions have been raised regarding swimming and trash. The current state guidelines do not allow for trash receptacles and that can be a problem. The Town of Hull closed their parking areas at the ocean and with no trash receptacles trash was dropped everywhere. The Recreation Director has shared her plans and ideas regarding setting up socially distant blanket areas, bathroom use, cleaning and disinfecting protocols.

JJ: Water samples were taken and came back good (step 1 for reopening). There was continued discussion, it was proposed that the beach plan for a “carry in/carry out with trash receptacles outside of the beach areas.

The Recreation Director has proposed the following:

- Staking out sand with areas for different sized beaching groups, allowing for 12 feet between sites,
- Daily disinfecting and cleaning of bathrooms; masks would be required in bathrooms and wait lines if social distancing was not possible; there cannot have lines for bathrooms,
- Showers would not be open at this time.
- Hoping to open for May 29th.

LM: In order for the Town to enforce these proposals, we would need to hire additional beach staff to monitor parking, entrance and exits and bathrooms. JJ: The parking lot will be limited to 50% of spaces to enforce the social distancing requirements of Phase 1. Beach groups would be limited to a maximum of 10 persons. Face coverings would be required in the parking lot, walkways but could be removed for swimming or seating in their 12 X 12 beach spot. The Health Dept. will be issuing their permit to operate. The docks cannot be used by swimmers in phase 1; there are concerns that during off hours there will probably be persons at the beach.

There was additional conversation regarding setting up lanes for swimmers, social distancing at the water's edge, bathroom occupancy and how to safely sanitize the docks. The beach staff will be following the Town staff protocols for temperatures daily and employees to complete questionnaires regarding health and socialization, any persons unwell for any reason are not to report to work and will be required to contact Ruth Mori prior to returning to work.

SG: Motion to reopen town beach on May 29th subject to protocols developed by DCR and Wayland Recreation dept. guidelines. Second: JS

Roll call vote: JS – yes, AS - yes, RD – yes, SG - yes Vote 4-0 all in favor

10:30 a.m. Review announcements to business and residents. These documents are still being worked on.

10:30 a.m. Town elections June 9th

Town elections are scheduled for June 9th, the Town Clerk is working with LM and JJ to safely get voting done and they will be working with absentee ballots and mail in and are working to set up the ability for persons who wish to vote in person, to be able to walk to a window, following social distancing protocols. Voting will be done at the Wayland Middle School and the Town building. LM, JJ and the Town Clerk are working on plans for safe voting, regarding the number of persons allowed to enter, where and how to wait outside, sneeze guards to separate voting areas, volunteers wearing PPE and the use of disposable pens. There was continued discussion regarding absentee and early mail in voting numbers. Reverse 911 calls and postcards detailing the voting process are planned.

SG: any idea of the number of absentee ballots? LM: 800 so far for absentee and early mail in, residents can request for these options up to and including June 8th. JJ: We wish to encourage residents to vote by absentee, the reverse 911 calls went out last weekend. LM: Postcards are being mailed this week regarding the process. The Board will be meeting again before June 9th and reserves the right to cancel the election should there be an uptick in the number of new cases.

JJ: I will be hosting a conference call with Wayland Faith Leaders to discuss concerns regarding the reopening of places of worship. Data and reports regarding other states that are still holding services are finding outbreaks from worshipping services with large numbers of attendees. The State is encouraging outdoor services when possible, but if indoor services are allowed there are ways to social distance worshipers in an enclosed building. The State does not want towns to impose stricter requirements than the State has in place. I will be working with our faith leaders to be sure they understand that there have been problems in other states with religious gatherings.

10:45 a.m. Updates and discussion: Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation

JJ: We have 2 new cases as of last night, bringing the total as of right now to 98 cases with no new deaths, the report from 6/15 has not yet been updated. RM is not in attendance, but WHS Amy Schoeff has been handling this in her absence.

The Board expressed concerns regarding ongoing communication with the Assisted Living Facilities, the nursing home and the hospice facility regarding their supply needs and are they stockpiling supplies for the future. JJ: we provided these facilities with some supplies they needed early on while they were waiting for their supplies to be delivered. They have not requested anything additional. There was additional discussion regarding the numbers of reported “recovered” persons, was that a result of negative test results? Are deaths in Assisted Living facilities and nursing homes being classified properly? Has testing been done?

10:50 a.m. Continue discussion regarding the State’s mandated use of face coverings, review letter received

JJ: We had several public comments (phone calls) shared with Board along with several letters regarding the problems with persons using the rail trail. I believe we need good signage (short /clear message) at the various parking areas along the trail to remind people regarding face covering and social distancing. I have seen reports from last weekend that the Milford rail trail noted that less than 10% of users were wearing any face coverings. There was signage stating “practice social distancing” in the parking area by the lake that was presently closed to the public. The majority of calls the office is presently receiving are regarding masks and social distancing on the rail trail. There was continued discussion regarding the language and location of signs and who would be responsible for posting them. Julia will discuss the important need for signage with LM and the Police Dept. and will inform the board after these conversations.

General business:

No bills, no minutes

11:00 a.m. Update on June 1st flavored tobacco ban

Letters have been sent out to all the tobacco retailers, we will be rolling out inspections by June 1st, the State wants checks completed by June 12th. We did our first round of inspections and provided information to all retailers back in November. Beth Grossman our Food inspector will do compliance check as part of her routine inspections of food renewal.

JJ: Town Engineer Paul Brinkman has been reviewing the design plans for an onsite Wastewater Treatment plant for the River’s Edge project; he has been communication with the design engineer on this project. They have not proposed to use town center that I am aware of, I believe they are still considering other options, there have been no proposals, so it is not off the table at this time.

Next meeting on May 27th at 9am.

11:15 a.m. Public Comment

Julia read letters from Kim Reichelt and Steven Locke regarding mask non-compliance specifically on the rail trail. Mr. Locke is asking for stricter requirements, monitoring, enforcing and signage. The letters are similar in that they describe that many elders want to use the trail and it is very busy with younger residents who are not wearing masks and it is very difficult to socially distance. People feel unsafe in these situations. Kim feels that the state order is too vague with unclear expectations and that towns have adopted more clear/strict mask orders. She included a list of towns that have mask orders for off property; Brookline, Cambridge, Everett, Lawrence Somerville, Waltham, Watertown (Kim as an individual not on behalf of school committee).

JS: Cambridge and Brookline, much larger population.

11:20 a.m. Dr. Defrancesco has left the meeting

Steven Locke provided comment in a letter.

Member of list serve “Next Door”. The letter addresses issues of large numbers of people on the rail trail without masks. Vague and subject to interpretation. Asking for Boh and police to post notices and enforce mask requirements.

JS: I believe additional signage would be good, for masks to be worn out of courtesy. AS; how wide is the trail?
JS: 8 to 10 feet at most.

SG: as a paved surface, it is a more stable surface that allows more vulnerable persons and some elders to use. The aqueduct trails are not a highly used. Extra precautions should be – strongly request that the public bring a

mask use when you cannot social distance. AS; the trail is barely over 6' wide, it needs special attention to provide protection for people using it.

JJ: I will check and see exactly what they are doing and share with the Board. I am pretty sure that there are regular checks of the rail trails by officers.

Public comment, there were none.

SG reviewed a communication received via email 5/19 from a parent of a resident at 93 Boston Post Rd, Charles River Center. Their daughter resides at this group home and she has medical issues. 24/7 staffing and nursing is provided. They had a couple of people there who tested positive. Their daughter is negative and they have concerns for her health and well-being. Guidance provided was for using time based strategy based on the situation. The setting is congregate with difficulty for some residents not being able to wear masks, bathrooms are shared. They were asking for advice regarding time based strategy –vs- retesting.

JJ: We are aware of 2 positive cases, we have been in touch with the group home. However, we were not aware of the concerns outlined in the letter.

As: Is this a communal congregate living situation, what is the policy from the state in regard to retesting, more stringent intervention? We understand this is different from senior congregate setting,

JJ: I will reach out and talk to either Ruth or Amy to get more specifics on the status situation. AS: RS should talk to DPH, this is a special situation. JJ: I would definitely recommend that we speak with DPH and an epidemiologist to review the situation and get guidance. I don't know if this person has contacted us directly for discussion before this letter being sent out to this group.

11:40 a.m. Public comment has been closed.

11:40 SG: motion to adjourn, second JS, vote JS yes, As yes, Sg yes.

Respectfully submitted
Patti White
Department Assistant
Approved 081920