

Board of Health Minutes  
Town Building- Council on Aging  
April 3, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. Present by remote, Susan Green, (SG) Chair, Arne Soslow(AS) M. D., Robert DeFrancesco (RD), D.M.D., John Schuler, (JS) M. D. and Brian McNamara (BM) also present were Julia Junghanns (JJ) Director of Public Health, Ruth Mori (RM) M.S.N, R.N., Tom Fay,(TF) Board of Selectmen 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.

**9:50 a.m. SG: We will open the meeting with roll call AS- yes, JS - yes, BM - yes, RD - yes, SG - yes**

**Update and discuss current situation with Covid-19**

JJ: There has been an extension to the school closure through May 4th; essential services in the Town Building have been pared down. Town employee remote resources are being worked on to provide more town employees to work from home on a virtual basis. JJ and RM have been listening to many DPH conference calls, press conferences, reading all the press releases, state and federal.

This week, JJ and RM participated in a WayCAM video regarding town essential services that is viewable online. The participants were the Town Administrator, Wayland Police Chief, Council on Aging director, DPW director, Wayland Fire chief and the Health Department.

A new program by the National Guard has been announced, they will be going into nursing homes, to do onsite testing, so no one has to leave a facility to be tested.

We continue to reach out to our food service facilities, food retailers and at risk facilities. We connected one of our assisted living facilities with a resource to get some PPE supplies through DPH, they were not aware of the online resources for supplies. Our staff is continuing to work with our local businesses keeping them updated on available resources and guidelines.

Office staff (Darren and Patti) are working opposite schedules to allow for social distancing in our office, they are assisting with food related complaints or emergencies; we continue to sterilize the office daily with Lysol and are wiping all surfaces and machines the office

We are keeping up on all information coming out regarding the expected surge in cases projected for the next 1½ to 2 weeks and the influx to hospitals and facilities. We are being asked to strongly message the need for residents to hunker down at home and limit their interaction to just the persons in their home. If people must go out, practice social distancing, shop at off hours, clean surfaces, and avoid touching your face; we are trying to flatten the curve.

There was a discussion on the status of food inspections; in particular at the assisted livings and nursing home n Wayland. Those facilities are on lockdown and no one is allowed to enter (first responders only). Staff has been in contact with those facilities and has discussed how to proceed and inquired into any needs they may have at this time. The Board has concerns regarding these high risk facilities.

JJ: There has been recent discussion regarding the general population wearing masks out in public; I would encourage people to wear their own masks, scarf or bandana, or what they may have in their possession. The DPH is not taking a stand on their position on masking and the CDC is reconsidering their comments. I was in Stop and Shop recently and they are playing a constant messaging over the loud speakers regarding distancing, and I saw many shoppers wearing masks. I don't know what the answer is, but I think that this will make a difference.

The town website has been updated by Katherine Brenna, Recreation Director with a front page section with all town updates and guidance documents regarding Covid-19. The website has an option for anyone to sign up to be notified when any new Covid-19 information is posted. Can we check to see if there is any way to find out how many folks are signed up to receive the updates? JJ: I can see if there is an ability to see how many people are getting the alerts from the website. In addition to the website, we send out our press releases are sent out to our town media sources; WayCam, Wayland wicked local, Wayland Voters Network, Waylandnews and the weekly Wayland Town Crier.

**10:10 a.m. Louise Miller (LM) Town Administrator has joined the meeting**

The Board was concerned regarding how we are getting this information out to the public, especially those who may not have a computer to access the town website. We are sending out public service announcements to all of our media sources asking residents to self-report for case tracking. The Town now has a facebook page and information will be sent out through that as well.

The Board asked if the town had a list serve like the schools do, that send out messages to all student families. Unfortunately they do not, but it was discussed to continue sending out information through the school list serve to at least keep those families up to date. There was continued discussion regarding other social media sites that were being well viewed by residents and how those might assist in getting updated information out to other "non- school" families.

The Board began drafting a message regarding their recommendation for facial covering when out of their homes.

**SG: Wayland Board of Health highly recommends that residents wear facial covering (mask, scarf or bandana) when out of their homes. We also highly encourage the continued practice of Social Distancing, hand washing and avoid touching your face.**

**LM: suggest that we highly recommend that anyone who is feeling l'll to call the BOH and self- report as well as call their physician (add phone number) to assist the town with case tracking we ask residents identify for case tracking**

The Board chair will work with the Health Dept. staff and the Front Office to finalize the language for the message.

**SG: roll call to approve the language in the public message . Second BM: roll call BM- yes, RD -yes, AS –yes, JS –yes and SG - yes. Vote 5-0 all in favor.**

10:25 a.m. RM: Since the last case update, on 4/1 (Wednesday), only one additional new case has been added, these numbers will go out to the website today. 16 cases identified, since the start of confirmed lab cases. There have been no additional clinically diagnosed cases by M.D. (not lab confirmed) that number remains at 3.

AS: When a PCP does a clinical diagnosis, is there testing to rule out flu or strep? RM: The individuals that I am speaking with have not been seen in an office, the MD is stating he believes they have Covid-19, and to stay in home quarantine. The CHN's (Community Health Nurses) are in touch with these individuals on a daily or every other day basis.

JJ: We do have a new case that came through overnight, we received 2 new case entries; the first was a covid-19 positive report and the second report was that the individual, a male in his 60's, had passed away yesterday. We are now starting an investigation, regarding potential contacts. It appears to have been very quick; the man was admitted to the hospital and passed quickly, a lab test confirmed he was positive. AS: So this is the reason we are asking for self-reporting; clearly this person was symptomatic and we did not get the information until his passing.

RM: We are returning all calls that come in to the coronavirus hotline. More and more cases are being managed by CHN (Community Health Nurses), who are reviewing notes, they are fabulous, and are experienced at interviewing. We are so lucky that they are trained on Maven and can update and enter the info.

#### **General business**

Bills have been approved, they were scanned and emailed and approval emails have been received.

JJ: We received our mosquito control larvicide briquettes that will be put in the street catch basins by East Middlesex Mosquito Control

Next meeting date: Friday April 10<sup>th</sup> between 9 and 10am.

**10:35 a.m. The phones are now being opened to public comment; please call in to call 508-358-6812**

**10: 40 a.m. no calls, public comment is closed**

AS: future agenda item, what events will be needed for clearance to open schools, including antibody testing and the impact for understanding what will be happening in next month or two.

10:40 p.m. Motion to adjourn, second roll call BM- yes, RD- yes, AS-yes, JS- yes, SG- yes

Respectfully submitted  
Patti White  
Department Assistant  
Wayland Health Department  
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APPROVED 05122020

