

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
TOWN BUILDING – COUNCIL ON AGING
MAY 8, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 10:05a.m. Present by remote were Robert DeFrancesco (RD), D.M.D, Susan Green (SG), Arne Soslow (AS), M. D., John Schuler, M. D. (JS) (joined the meeting at 10:40 a.m.) Also present were Julia Junghanns, (JJ) Director of Public health, Ruth Mori (RM) (MSN, RN) Doug Levine (DL) BOS- via remote call in 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.

SG: roll call to open the meeting - RD- yes, AS- yes, SG-yes

10:05 a.m. Update and discussion: Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation

JJ: Staff has had a busy week, more calls on regular projects and also the River's Edge project. We are also getting calls on Covid-19 guidelines regarding summer camps and pools. Golf clubs are being opened per state guidelines which state, no access to building (bathrooms), no lessons, no pro shop, no other services, no golf carts, only groups of 4, being outside with masks and social distancing this should be ok. Staff has been in discussion with both golf clubs to discuss their plans and if they will be adding outdoor chemical toilets. Concerns were raised regarding gatherings on the golf courses after the 9th or 18th hole, this is a tough environment to monitor and control. Currently no food or beverages are being served at both golf clubs

Ruth and Julia continue to listen to the DPH conference calls, of note today, they discussed serology testing, it is not completely understood what having antibodies mean and if tests are accurate. DPH is not recommending serological testing for diagnosis or return to work orders. DPH is working to increase COVID testing for these purposes. RM reports that she has received information that persons have tested positive for COVID through serology, she is not sure how to handle those cases, are they to be treated as positive. AS: regarding serology testing;—most tests just measure early antibodies 7 – 10 days after infection. Some tests will eventually look at 16 – 20 week antibody testing. The tests are not available, and we don't know how long antibodies protect, we need more information on long-term protectiveness of antibodies.

10:20: John Schuler, M. D. (JS) has joined the meeting is in meeting.

RM: Positive COVID cases have increased by 26 this week, bringing the total in Wayland to 86. Last week, testing was done at the Royal Wayland Nursing home. Most of the new cases are related to the 3 assisted living facilities and the nursing home. We do have community cases as part of that number, but the large amount of cases are primarily at the long term care facilities. AS: have senior housing numbers (senior congregate apartments) been included in these numbers? RM: At this point, very few individuals in our housing authority independent apartment have tested positive, those are not separated out as sub group, as are the 4 long term care locations, (3 assisted living and 1 nursing home). Of the current total of 86 cases, 54 are residents in those facilities, 32 positive residents are not part of congregate living, which could include housing authority residences, as well as individual homes and other apartment complexes. The 54 positive persons either reside or work in Wayland. The nursing home situation is substantial, it is a very small facility, there are a total of 28 residents at this time and most have tested positive, 23 residents tested positive and 5 were negative. 8 staff tested positive; 1 staff member is a resident of Wayland and 7 additional staff are not residents of Wayland. The number of deceased residents has increased by 5, for a total of 10 directly related to COVID-19. This is a fragile

population and hard to determine what else can be done. Four are directly in the nursing home, and the other are residents in other assisted living facilities.

JJ: We are in daily contact with the executive director of Royal Wayland. RM: We have been working with them along with assistance from DPH and believe they are doing everything possible, but they have such fragile resident. JS indicated that there is very little else that can be done without Covid testing, cleaning, PPE and immediate hospitalization for people testing positive which is not realistic. Dr. Soslow: There is a cumulative impact of being in a viral cloud which means there needs to be extra resources. Do they have enough staff to clean facilities? N-95's are being worn in the long – term care facilities. Treating everyone as though Covid-positive, but don't have a place to isolate those who tested Covid positive. Treating everyone with zinc, vitamin C and have z-packs available. JJ: We have been working with them regarding staff PPE, everyone is wearing N-95 masks and checking temps, we just don't know about asymptomatic persons that may be carrying the disease. RM: We have been working directly with the communities where the positive employees live, the facility has been assuring us that all protocols have been followed and they are making sure all employees are cleared properly to return to work. The nursing home is small and when residents became symptomatic, they tried to isolate and quarantine. Once testing results were returned, all residents are being treated as positive. Everyone is being given Vitamin C, Zinc and the staff physician has ordered ZPAC antibiotics.

The 3 assisted livings and nursing home have been working hard to ensure that the staff who have tested positive are properly cleared for work. We are doing daily phone checks with all the facilities to confirm who is out of work, who is coming back, confirming that all facilities have the proper PPE and cleaning supplies they need.

JS: testing? RM: testing completed last week or continuing to test. First case reported mid-April, sent a few to hospital then entire facility was tested last week. RM understands that all facilities doing baseline and potentially ongoing. DPH is only providing test kits for individuals who are symptomatic. One facility is using agency group, kits not from DPH.

JS: if you do anything, testing on a regular basis, if positive and unless DNR or very elderly, can positive persons be transferred to hospital to be treated? RM: Many residents are on comfort measures, (actively ill) there have been numerous persons from the facilities sent to hospital, some do return and are doing well. I will be on webinar for guidance on serology, DPH is wants to consider, possible antibodies as probable and look for PCR test from MD, if no PCR, persons are to be isolated and treated as positive. People believe they may have been COVID positive but not confirmed, either nasal swab or PCR to confirm. Waiting to see how these go forward.

JS; % of employees? RM: no actuals, probably 25%. All locations that were tested, employee + numbers quite small, one facility, staff was rising, frequently encouraged testing, because of number of positive staff. Long term facilities are being considered clusters.

10:45 a.m. Discuss mask use and review /discuss draft local face covering order, potential vote

SG: did everyone read the both Gov. Baker's and our local draft from last week? To DL: as a lawyer and BOS member, do you feel this is ready to go? DL: I believe the Governor's order covers what is needed, adding a Wayland order may confuse residents traveling from town to town. The city of Framingham has an order that is different from Wayland.

Dr. Soslow spoke to the issues regarding masks or other types of face coverings. The most important part of the mask is the seal, N95 masks are specifically fitted and provide a complete seal, workers in the healthcare field understand this. Other types of face coverings do not have a seal and are not as effective. DL: the state order says masks are required inside at all times, and when in lines outside distancing persons are still required to still wear them.

There was additional discussion regarding if the Wayland mask order might cover conditions/situations that are not described in the State order. The board will continue to review the Wayland draft and the State order to work on preparing guidance for food handlers. The state order does not mention mask requirements for food handlers. The CDC and the FDA have put out guidance for food handlers. Staff will work on getting in touch with businesses that are currently open and all our food service establishments to keep them updated on this information. We will continue to reach out to our food service business to be sure they have masks for staff. We had been getting a lot of calls regarding masks in food service locations, but that situation appears to be improving.

The Board will continue to discuss masks and advisory information for residents and visitors to the town regarding best practices for staying healthy .

10:30 a.m. General Business

Next meeting date: JJ will check to see if Tuesday is open for the next meeting and will be in touch with the board by email.

10:55 a.m. Public comment is now open. There were no calls, public comment has been closed

11:00 a.m. Motion to adjourn - second RD: roll call vote RD- yes JS yes, AS: yes, SG yes.

Meeting adjourned
Respectfully submitted
Patti white
Department Assistant
Health Department
050820minutes
APPROVED 07202020