

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
TOWN BUILDING COUNCIL ON AGING
MAY 12, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 11:45 a.m. present by remote were Susan Green (SG), Chair, Robert DeFrancesco (RD) D.M.D., Arne Soslow (AS), M.D., John G. Schuler (JS) M. D., Brian McNamara (BM) and Doug Levine (DL) BOS. Also present were Julia Junghanns (JJ) Director of Public Health, Ruth Mori (RM) MSM, RN, Public Health Nurse/School Nurse Leader 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.

11:50 a.m. SG: I will open the meeting with a roll call: AS=yes, JS=yes, RD=yes , BM=yes, SG=yes

11:50 a.m. Update and discussion: Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation

JJ: Today's weekly DPH conference call will be discussing Phase 4 of the State reopening plan. Prior to the call documents were sent out for review regarding new guidance on testing and close contacts. The State Phase 4 reopening plan is starting to unfold with guidelines for businesses. The office is getting more calls regarding the opening of camps and pools hoping for specific dates to open.

Office staff is busy working on sending out the renewal packages for the annual permits for all food service businesses, septic pumpers, septic installers, refuse haulers, and any other business that require a Health Department permit to operate. We are working on the process for these to be completed by admin staff working remotely. We are not sure if Russell's will be opening their annual outdoor summer Farmer's Market. There are guidelines for these to open, will we wait to hear from Russell's. JS: Shopping in an open air market will be safer than supermarkets. JJ: We will be working with Russell's when they have a plan.

RM: This week we have 7 additional cases bringing our total up to 92, these are individuals who have been tested and confirmed positive. Of the 7 cases one is a resident, the remaining 6 are residents of the assisted living facilities and the nursing home, we have had one additional death. We have added one group home facility to our congregate living, this group home has 2 cases, 1 resident and 1 staff; our staff are following up with the health department where resident resides. The resident is presently asymptomatic, the facility is considered a low level medical facility, they have daily nursing visits but do not have any onsite medical staff, should the resident become symptomatic they have plans to transfer that patient to a higher medical facility, not necessarily a hospital. They have a COVID location with medical support we will continue to receive daily updates.

AS: Do you have any information on the new case of the resident? RM: We do not have much information as of yet and have had no contact, if needed, the Fire Dept. can do a wellness check if we having trouble making contact. We are seeing patient ages' increasing as time goes by. JS: Are the ill residents from the Assisted Living facilities and the nursing home staying in place or going to the hospital? RM: Most of them are staying in place, the Assisted Living facilities do not have onsite medical and depending on the health status of the individual they are more likely to go to the hospital for assessment or treatment. The Assisted Living facilities are working with families as a number of the residents are under hospice or palliative care. The Board expressed concerns regarding the spread in these facilities and the need for continued testing. RM: Unless they obtain COVID test kits for testing the asymptomatic residents, the National Guard is only testing symptomatic residents. One Assisted living facility is having the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) coming in to do testing ongoing. There was continued discussion regarding the plans for separating symptomatic and asymptomatic patients and what plans they have to keep nursing staff from crossing between the two areas. RM: Has been in communication with staff. The nursing home has the largest number of positive residents, they have separated the 2 negative patients and persons not tested yet to be located as far away as possible from the positives, but it is not a large facility. We are not sure what their current staffing plans are, when COVID started and staff were testing positive, not all staff return to work. The Board continued to discuss the expected resurgence in the fall and the time frame needed for a vaccine to be produced.

There was continued discussion regarding these facilities continuing to work on separating the positive and negative patients and the needed plans for ongoing supplies, staff training, patient and staff testing and plans for the expected resurgence in the fall.

12:10 p.m. Discuss facial covering use and town communication

The Board continued to review the draft mask order they had been working on and compared it with the language in the order from the State. The Board had concerns regarding face coverings for food preparers, handlers and delivery persons, as this was not detailed in the State order. The State order has specific language for retail and grocery stores about their specific business practices. JJ let the Board know that she has provided FDA and CDC food handling guidelines along with mandatory safety standards. She will be sending out reminders to all food establishments that are currently open for takeout orders. Our Food Inspector is starting out on a round of inspections for food businesses that will be reopening and she is doing spot checks on businesses that have remained open. The two grocery stores in town have signs up and the floors have been taped for safe distances.

To avoid additional confusion with the state mask order, the Board has decided to table a Wayland mask order. Staff will keep the Board apprised of any complaints or problems.

There was continued discussion on the process should a food service staff become ill. JJ assured the board there are specific CDC guidelines depending on the situation, not necessarily a full business shutdown. There was discussion regarding cleaning protocols and questions regarding temperature checks for food service staff. It is not being required, but is currently taking place in health care facilities. RD shared that the American Dental Association (ADA) is requiring all dental office employees to have temperatures taken 3 times a day, he is seeing emergency patients, they have to answer screening questions prior to their appointment along with temperature checks and hand sanitizing.

JS: Do we have any information on the schools opening in the fall? JJ: the decision for the rest of this year was made by the state, we are not sure how fall will be addressed yet. Discussion will likely be needed with school administration regarding and protocols and guidelines, no guidance has been received from state yet.

SG: Motion to approve invoices submitted. Roll call: JS – yes, RD - yes, BM -yes, AS - yes, SG- yes. Vote 5-0 all in favor

SG: Motion to approve minutes of March 27, 2020 Roll call: BM- yes, RD – yes, JS – yes, AS – yes, SG – yes. Second RD vote 5-0 all in favor

SG: Motion to approve minutes of April 3, 2020 Roll Call BM – yes, RD – yes, JS – yes, AS – yes, SG – yes. Second RD vote 5-0 all in favor.

Next meeting date. Wednesday May 20th 9 a.m.

12:49 p.m. Public comment:

12:51 p.m. SG: no calls public comment is closed.

12:52 p.m. Motion to adjourn second AS: Roll Call BM –yes, RD – yes, AS – yes, JS – yes, SG – yes. Vote 5-0

Respectfully submitted
Patti White
Department Assistant
Health Department
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APPROVED 08122020