

BOAD OF HEALTH MEETING
TOWN BUILDING- COUNCIL ON AGING
MARCH 27, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 10:25 a.m., present were by roll call John G. Schuler, M. D. – yes (JS), Susan Green – yes (SG), Arne Soslow, M. D. –yes (AS), Brian McNamara –yes (BM) and Robert DeFrancesco, D.M.D. yes (RD), also present were Julia Junghanns (JJ), Director of Public Health, Ruth Mori M.S.N., R. N. (RM), Public Health Nurse and School Nurse leader, Tom Fay,(TF) Board of Selectmen , 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.

10:30 a.m. Update and discussion: Coronavirus (Covid-19)

JJ: Highlights from this past week; Ruth and I participated in a conference call with DPH that discussed the challenges of the MA/US situation in regards to tracking and following cases of presumptive or suspected contacts. There are many delays with the system; PCP's (Primary Care Physicians), the State and Local Health Departments are involved with local health depts. entering information into the database (often time delays). RM and CHN's (Community Health Nurses) are getting access to the DPH Maven (state database for communicable diseases) database, where they will be entering information regarding their contact investigations, as this continues to unfold. RM: All 5 full time CHN's have completed Maven training; they have been provided cell phones and will be assigned cases to follow through to the end of the case. Ruth will be doing reviews of the cases, this is a new process and it is evolving as new cases are presented.

AS: What are the protocols for contact tracing? Are there DPH guidelines? RM: Correct, we are using DPH guidelines for contract tracing, there is a standard protocol with standard questions being asked. Our contacts are primarily in Wayland, I have created an excel document list that will be sent to BOH with unidentifiable information such as age, gender, underlying health issues, as of today, we have a total of 6 positive confirmed, we had four cases last week and 2 have been added this week. The word presumptive and DPH has reported these cases to positive. We also have the first clinically diagnosed case; (by patient's PCP after phone conversation) positive per symptoms, with management at home, I am working directly with the MD., the patient has not been tested yet. I think we will start to see more clinically diagnosed cases; this patient contacted the Health Department with symptoms that were concerning; including increased shortness of breath, I advised the patient to reach out to their PCP right away and to contact us if they need emergency assistance and explained how to communicate their potential risk to first responders, should the need arise. AS: We should not be calling these positive cases. RM: When an M.D.is clinically diagnosing, we are acting and treating it as a positive case; but we are tracking the case in a separate category.

This clinical case brings our total to 7; we have 25 identified contacts, either identified positive, or through the Maven records, 22 of the 25 identified contacts will be followed daily or every other day, if they become symptomatic, we will suggest testing.

Louise Miller (LM) Town Administrator: The numbers are not growing rapidly in Wayland; we are contributing that to our early response and early stay in place response by residents.

JJ: We are currently under a State advisory which is conflicting with the guidance from the White House, the pandemic is now widespread, based on numbers that show that USA is now #1 in the number of cases. It is important to continue social distancing and rules for home confinement, we are working with other area communities that have brought in similar protocols.

JS: What are they recommending for people that have tested positive, when they can resume normal activities?

RM: There are 2 ways to “release patients to public” the first required they have 2 negative tests at least 24 hours apart, repeat testing is supposed to be a priority. The second is after being non- symptomatic for 3 days, (after all symptoms are no longer present and they have not used any fever reducing medications) they are no longer contagious. Either out 2 weeks or 3 days after no symptoms, whichever is longer.

There was a discussion regarding a recent initiative by a resident to set up for volunteers to assist residents in need of meals, food, and prescription delivery. The Town administrator was recently made aware of this and the town has set up a phone line for residents to call for help, the IT department has created a voicemail to email option to allow better communication. The Town is looking for help and volunteers, the primary concern is protecting the volunteers, avoiding personal contact as we are try to enforce stay in place. The Town administrator is working with JJ setting up messages to provide food and basic necessities, COA has phone set up for seniors to let us know if they are at risk and needing services. The town is looking to work with this resident to provide what is needed in a safe environment for volunteers.

Staff was recently made aware that the food code does not require Covid-19 illness to be reported to the town where the food worker is employed. The code required the MD to report the illness to the town of residence. We are hoping that during their contact investigation, they will call the town where the person is employed and provide the information. Additionally, we are hoping that the town food establishments will report their employee illness to us as well but it is not required at this time.

JJ: The situation at Starbucks is a good example of this: a police officer was going up to the store and saw an employee who told him “we are closing, an employee is presumed positive” and locked the door. We then tried to contact the store, looking for information regarding the employee and had very little success. We also contacted the corporate office and were finally contacted by someone from the corporate office in Seattle WA several days later. Starbucks is not required to report to the local BOH and the good news is that we have not seen a case in Maven that involves Starbucks. We have heard from a Starbucks employee who was not a Wayland resident; they believed they were exposed at work; RM has been working to get them tested. RM has written up this situation and distributed it to the State and various health professional groups for potential guidance/feedback. Staff has spoken to the Food Safety contact person at the state and explained the situation; Coronavirus is not reportable to the health department for a food handler. We do not have a lot of guidance for food handlers; CDC believes food is not a way of transportation for Covid-19.

AS: Is the Liberty owner a Wayland resident? JJ: No, the local health department in the town where the owner lives contacted us directly. Do you have any info on staff? JJ: We do not, but contact has been made. AS: This is a major flaw; we have the right as a town to permit opening the facility. JJ: We have not heard that they are looking to reopen at this time. AS: Please continue to contact them. RM: Julia and I had a conference call with the Starbucks food safety contact person from Seattle; they provided test results on an individual that were negative. In a prior phone conversation we had been informed that someone was tested presumptive positive, we did not know who that was, and they declined to admit that the statement was made. Now they say, they were acting that the person was presumptive positive, but not actually tested. We are waiting for results for non-resident that Ruth is following with from Saturday testing that will help provide us additional information.

JS: Do you know where residents can be tested? RM: The testing sites in our area often require an order form an M.D. We have heard that Metrowest Medical Center in Framingham was setting up a drive through testing site as well as Partners Healthcare at Newton Wellesley and AFC Urgent Care on Rt. 20 in Marlboro. We believe

that if patients do not have a PCP, they can call AFC Urgent Care and an MD does a Telehealth contact to determine if they need testing. JS: should we have something on website regarding possible testing? RE: we are asking residents to contact the BOH to give us their info and circle back with testing results. We are a resource to assist with testing.

RM: We have a frustrating issue with the State Maven system; they are not posting negative test results. This information would be helpful in our contact investigation. I have requested that individuals who have been tested to please let us know the results.

JJ: We were just made aware of an unattended death yesterday afternoon in Wayland. We are asking direct contact individuals to self-quarantine; we are working to maintain confidentiality as we continue to investigate. LM: from an administrative standpoint, I have been working with JJ and RM. We are looking for guidance from the DPH epidemiologist and the Medical Examiner's office, it has been frustrating.

The Board had questions regarding the senior residents in town as well as the assisted living facilities and the nursing home. Staff has been in contact with all facilities ongoing. Julie S in COA has been instruction the seniors they are in contact with to call the town on a specific phone number listed on the website to let the Town know what their needs are and the Front Office staff is following up on all calls received.

There was discussion regarding a messaging statement that the Board is preparing as part of a Town press release, they will be providing information regarding Covid-19 symptoms, the ability to call the Covid-19 hotline number to discuss questions or concerns, self-reporting and home quarantine.

Liberty's is reopened; the person running the shop has experience with food safety and has spoken with Beth Grossman (food inspector), the facility has undergone a thorough cleaning.

The front office is running remotely, they are working on setting up remote participation for employees to work from home and are also working to figure out and provide services needed by residents. Health Department staff is working part time at home and at the office to answer complaints, inspect businesses. The front office is continuing to work on remote computing to allow more work to be done remotely.

General businesses

There were no invoices to be approved and paid.

LM: We continue to run weekly warrants, if needed we may include BOH invoices in BOS packet. In the event of an emergency type of activities, such as a deep cleaning, that would require immediate authorization, we will take care of that and then we will notify BOH.

JJ: I have received an update from EMMCP (East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project) they are an essential service, as such they have started their surveys for the helicopter larvicide and small wetland applications and will be moving forward with their usual treatments. We have ordered our products for the catch basin treatments that will take place once the DPW has finished the catch basin cleaning.

Minutes of 1/13/2020.

The minutes were emailed to the board for approval prior to the meeting. SG: I have a few minor edits, I will send the edits (4 or 5) to you by email. JJ: Ok, I just got email with edits, and am forwarding them to the Board. The edits have been reviewed and the Board is ready to vote to approve.

SG: Motion to approve the minutes of January 13, 2020 as amended - roll call AS – yes, JS – yes, RD – yes, BM – yes, SG - yes all in favor 5-0

Next meeting next Friday April 3rd 9 a.m.

11:30 a.m. Public comment. We are now taking public comments on the phone; the number is 508-358-6812

Tom Fay, BOS – While we are waiting for public comments I wish to thank Julia, her staff and the Board of Health for their work on Coronavirus and the BOS appreciate all you do. SG: thank you Tom

Public Comment call: Richard Turner 7 Nob Hill Road - Many towns are putting out data of specific numbers of cases and associated deaths, will Wayland be providing this information? JJ: We have discussed this subject and have given it thought; we will discuss again. RT: Is that public information? LM: We have discussed this and decided that after the weekly BOH meeting; the information that was discussed will be posted on the website. JJ: We will be posting the information today.

SG: motion to adjourn Second RD: roll call AS: yes, JS: yes, RD yes, BM: yes, SG yes, all in favor 5-0

Respectfully submitted
Patti White
Department Assistant
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APPROVED 03122020