

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
TOWN BUILDING- COUNCIL ON AGING
APRIL 10, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m., present via remote participation were: Robert DeFrancesco (RD) DMD, John Schuler (JS) M.D., Susan Green (SG), Chair, Arne Soslow (AS) M.D, and Tom Fay, (TF), Board of Selectmen. Also participating were Julia Junghanns (JJ) Director of Public Health, Ruth Mori (RM), MSN, R.N., Louise Miller (LM) Town Administrator and Patti White, Department Assistant

9:30 a.m. The meeting was called to order by roll call RD- yes, JS- yes, SG yes AS(9:36)

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.

9:35 a.m. Covid-19 update

JJ: weekly updates – A new order from DPH was announced by Gov. Baker regarding grocery stores with a capacity of 25 or more. They are being ordered to reduce occupancy to 40% of their allowed maximum permitted occupancy. I spoke with the staff with Donelan’s and Stop & Shop regarding what they are presently doing and what they are planning to do. JS: Will this create lines outside stores and issues of social distancing? JJ: the staff at Donelan’s said they have not been very busy.

JJ: Ruth and I have participated in several DPH conference calls this week, they announced a new Lowell drive through Covid testing site (by appt). This morning’s meeting had some information about cities opening quarantine sites, we are not aware on any in the Metrowest region, but will provide any new information as it is received..

Yesterday, Town Administrator Louise Miller, Ruth Mori and Julia participated in a WayCAM recording; LM put together a PowerPoint with reminders of why social distancing is still important. The discussion also offered resident contact information for assistance with food, prescriptions, other needed.

The Board had questions regarding how information is being released to the public, as not all residents have internet. JJ: We are posting updates on the Town Covid-19 website and WayCAM. It was suggested that we also post on informal network sites like the Town Facebook page. Julia and Ruth will be doing a Wayland Buzz interview next week. JJ: I am starting to see many more people in public wearing masks, it is currently just recommended not required.

JJ: Starbucks called and are looking to re-open on or around 5/4. I had a long discussion with the store manager, regarding the problems that occurred after their closure. We discussed the lack of communication and response, their having management from Seattle WA contacting us instead of a Massachusetts manager, we will be discussing their plans to reopen.

Regarding food service stores being reopened; guidelines from the FDA and other food agencies are being distributed to all our food services and we will discuss Covid-19 protocols.

This week there was a meeting onsite at the Hills at Mainstone in response to complaints by residents regarding “non –essential construction taking place. Louise Miller, Town administrator and Julia met with a Condo Board member, manager Tim Sullivan and the roofing contractor. The work presently being done is considered essential work; many aspects of job have been downscaled from the original plan. They are presently supposed to be only working on roofing in need of repair (history of leaks and problems) additional work on the skylights and sliders will be done at a later time. They have indicated that this is the only work they are doing, work that is necessary. They are to prioritize the work making sure it is necessary; this includes working on rotted deck supports that they say are unsafe. They will be following required state protocols as reviewed by LM, using onsite porta-johns, wearing masks and wiping down surfaces. LM: I have asked that they seek permission from owners prior to working on any individual units. Essential construction orders are overseen by the State, but delegation has been brought down to local staff to oversee.

JJ: I performed spot checks of food establishments, with limited exposure, gauging what is going on, it appears business are slower and they are indicating so.

RM: Case information update: our numbers have not changed since Wednesday April 8th, yesterday we worked on a new chart for the case update form. We will get that posted today. Last week we had 16 cases, we now have an additional 5 cases, for a total of 21 cases (lab confirmed through DPH)

10 are active, 13 men, and 8 women

3 ages 20-29,

3 ages 30-39

4 ages 40-49

5 ages 50-59

3 ages 60-69

3 individuals over 70

Total to date 10 recovering, 8 have recovered, 2 in hospital and one deceased.

JS: What are the guidelines regarding release from isolation and return to work or public?

RM: There are 2 ways:

Originally - everyone needed 2 negative tests within 24 hours of each other after being non-symptomatic. That is now being done in hospitals but not in the general community. The second way is by the clinical profile of symptoms; earliest time off isolation is 7 days, though it can be as much as 10 days or longer, depending on when a fever of 100.4 and over abates. Individuals need to have a fever lower than 100.4 for three days prior to release from isolation.

There were questions regarding confirmation of the 5 new cases. RM: These 5 cases were lab confirmed by DPH, most were symptomatic when we first made contact, some MD's were having whole families tested and there were some asymptomatic positive cases. When our case managers do outreach, they review isolation and quarantine protocols; isolation for the ill person and quarantine for rest of household. Nurses are in contact with patients daily, and if the patients are doing well, maybe every other day. If they become symptomatic between calls, they are to call their case manager immediately. The nurses have town issued cell phones for their case management and we are answering the calls to

the Covid-19 hotline. The patients are appreciative of our contact, as the medical offices are busy and cannot follow as closely.

JS: Thank you for all you are doing. RM: We feel we are doing what we can to help our community, we return most calls the same day they come in. Early this week, we reached out to 3 assisted living facilities, our one nursing home and the hospice house; I reviewed with them all the protocols regarding PPE for staff and residents. The assisted living facilities are doing well, trying to avoid having outside agency workers to avoid workers going from facility to facility. I have been discussing their protocols and practices and they know that they know to call me should they have a positive case. We are checking in with the nursing home daily, they have plans in place and are practicing and drilling for isolation, if needed. The Hospice is now associated with Beth Israel Lahey and is following their protocols and practices.

SG: Gov. Baker announced a tracing program using nursing students, how does that mesh with how Wayland works? RM: I am president of the Mass Association of Public Health Nurses and I have been on been on those calls. This is being worked on, so that when the surge comes, every community can be assisted when they are being stretched beyond their ability. There are currently 6 state public health organizations working on this so they can determine how this information will flow into the State Maven program.

JJ: We have a good system in place, with Ruth and our Community Health nurses; we are in good position to manage higher numbers. We are hoping for communication regarding how the new contact investigation program will mesh with our local case work. This program will work best for the communities that do not have the ability to handle a larger volume that the surge may bring. We have reached out to at- risk groups and are working with the seniors as well.

There was a discussion regarding the availability of testing. Ruth says the time frame for testing is now faster because several labs are working directly with several of the urgent care facilities that are assisting with testing after telehealth visits. JJ: I am aware that Lowell site partners with CVS, not sure what role they are playing. RM: The Shrewsbury site was run through CVS corporate structure, possibly staffed with NP's from minute clinics.

Minutes of February 10, 2020

SG: Motion to approve minutes as amended second RD vote roll RD-yes, JS –yes, AS –yes and SG yes. All in favor 4-0

Updates - JJ: We received the larvicide briquettes for the catch basins, treatment by East Middlesex Mosquito Control will begin after DPW completes the catch basin cleaning. Helicopter larvicide will take place as expected, within the next few weeks, before leaf out; they have completed the required newspaper advertising.

The Front office has organized and created a food pantry for residents in need and have a group of volunteers for delivery. Anyone needing assistance can call and be added to list.

The town has several 3D printers doing mask construction.

The Parmenter Food pantry was open last week and will be open again in early May. The Celebration Church food pantry was open this week as well and they have told us they have capacity to expand their pantry. We have provided pantry guides and suggestions on how to provide food without interaction; the food is put into the car without contact.

We are also aware of another company “Johnny's Box” that provided fresh produce; they are now delivering to homes.

Next meeting date

Friday April 17th at 9:30 a.m.

JJ: I reached out to SG regarding tick communication, larger numbers of persons are out and about, we need to remind everyone to be sure to do tick checks, we will resend an updated message to the community.

10:30 a.m. Public comment - Phone number to call in is 508-358-6812

10:35 a.m. There were no calls, public comment is closed

10:40 SG: Motion to adjourn ---second roll call RD- yes, JS-yes, AS-yes and SG- yes

Respectfully submitted
Patti White
Department Assistant
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