

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
Town Building - Council on Aging
April 17, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. Present by remote participation were John G. Schuler, M. D. (JS), Robert DeFrancesco DMD (RD), Susan Green, Chair,(SG), Brian McNamara (BM) and Arne Soslow, M. D. (AS) Also present were Julia Junghanns, (JJ)Director of Health, Louise Miller(LM) Town Administrator, Ruth Mori, M.S.N, R.N., (RM) Public Health Nurse/School Nurse Leader, 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.

SG: lets open the meeting with roll call: JS –yes, BM – yes, AS – yes, RD – yes and SG – yes.

JJ: Covid-19 is starting to ramp up in town, this week we identified positive cases at the 3 assisted living facilities that are being worked on in coordination with the staff at the facilities and CHN’s(Community Health Nurse) that have been assigned to each facility.

The National Guard was requested to visit the Traditions facility and they did onsite testing on Thursday April 16th Testing protocols changed on Monday to now include the testing of staff in addition to the residents and they were including everyone including people who are asymptomatic. The testing has brought an influx of calls to the office from concerned family members.

RM: We currently we have 28 cases, 2 new cases have come in as of 8 a.m. today, these are all lab confirmed cases of Wayland residents. We previously had 21 cases, with 7 new, 6 have been removed from quarantine and isolation. We have 8 active non-hospitalized and 3 hospitalized. 12 are female, 16 are males. Broken down by age as:

3 ages 20-29

3 ages 30–30

5 ages 40-49

8 ages 50-59

3 ages 60-69

6 over age 70

As of this past Wednesday, all MA Department of Public Health (DPH) reports will include town confirmed cases, but this may not always be accurate number. DPH reported Wayland to have 29 cases; older residents in assisted living facilities may have their home address as the location for their case, rather than the facility address. Going forward, we will report the DPH count of Wayland reported vs Wayland actual.

AS: Can you identify within the 28 the breakdown of private home vs congregate residences. RM: I have not put that on our weekly report; potentially we can add that if the board wishes. We have 3 confirmed individuals in congregate living. I should be informed of the Traditions testing results either Saturday or Sunday; I am expecting the numbers of positive cases to rise. DPH is reporting each Assisted Living facility as clusters, as we develop cases for these congregate living facilities

JS: Are the 3 positive tests from the same facility? RM: As of today we have positive results at 2 of the 3 facilities. JJ: We are aware of cases at all 3 facilities, all confirmed. RM: I am calling each assisted living facility at least one time per day, we are aware staff at each facility that have tested positive and 2 facilities have confirmed residents. Each cluster within a congregate living facility has been assigned a designated epidemiologist from DPH; having a designated epidemiologist for each location makes it easier for staff to reach out directly with questions and concerns. Each cluster is assigned an epidemiologist; we do not know if the same epidemiologist will be assigned for all 3 facilities. SG: Is there any thought about bringing in the National Guard in to test at the other 2 Assisted Living facilities in town? RM: We are looking into that as we speak.

There was continued discussion regarding possible options to treat patients in these congregate living facilities with some of the medications that are being used in the hospitals. RM: We are currently trying to figure out who is positive. The assisted living facilities do not have a medical director like a nursing home; so there are many personal physicians overseeing patient treatment. I will include that suggestion in our planning going forward.

General Business:

The bills have been reviewed and written permission has been received. We presently do not have any minutes to be approved; we expect to have several sets ready for next week.

JJ: Yesterday I received an anonymous call regarding what was believed an illegal septic installation. I drove to the property and did verify they were installing a full system, without a permit, or a Disposal Works Installer's license. The resident stated he believed the town building was closed so he could not get a permit. The job was stopped immediately, I explained the regulations and that it was illegal to install a septic system without a license or permit. The resident stated that the work was due to an emergency with sewage backing up in the house. I explained to the resident that we will work on any emergency septic, we still have to follow the process and we will work to expedite the emergency. The resident has chosen a septic designer/installer who has taken over the situation and is working to get project on track properly. JS: Can't this be managed by pumping the system? JJ: Yes, I did not go on to the property, but could see that the whole yard was completely dug up. JJ: The engineer was to look at the site and get it secured and get design plans to the staff as soon as possible.

JJ: We are starting to receive inquiries regarding non-essential businesses that may be operating in town; I will be following up and investigating a couple of emails I received. The State has shared an email contact for local guidance in handling situations regarding non-essential services.

The Board is concerned about the 3 phased plans from the White house to reopen the States. JJ: It was being discussed during the DPH conference call this morning, but I had to leave for this meeting. After the weekly DPH calls there is a lot of information and many documents being sent out to local health departments, we will need to review the information from DPH and the State. I will review the rollout plans and will forward the information to the Board as soon as possible to give everyone time to review and vet properly.

Tom Fay: Was there any discussion of testing employees and has this been done? RM: Yes, previously the National Guard was only testing residents in congregate living facilities; that has now changed as of Monday and they are now testing both residents and staff. RM: One facility has had everyone tested; the other two facilities had tested symptomatic staff. We are now working with those facilities to confirm that full testing will be performed. When testing is being done, the facility is bringing in all staff including those off shift to be tested.

10:10 a.m. The phones are open for public comment 508-358 6812

Molly Upton, Bayfield Road. I am not sure what information is posted on the front door of the Town Building, whoever was installing the septic system may have assumed that everything was closed.

Richard Turner: I was at Stop & Shop yesterday and out by the carriage collection area was a barrel to dispose of masks and glove; there was all kinds of trash in the barrel, it should be labeled for masks and gloves only and labeled as bio hazard. JJ to contact the store.

10:15 a.m. Public comment has been closed

There was discussion regarding the testing of staff at the assisted living facilities. At present any positive testing results of employees is reported to the Health Department in the town where they reside. Many community Health Departments are overwhelmed with work and some of these employees test results could be sitting in their Maven queue waiting for that town to start their investigation and hopefully call the Health Department in their town of employment to advise of their results. Wayland Health Dept. staff is working with the assisted living facilities to get updated information. Assisted living facilities do not have an MD onsite, each resident retains their own PCP (primary care physician) and their individual test results are reported to their PCP. A nursing home has an MD who oversees the care of all residents; so that information will come to us faster.

Next meeting will be Friday April 24th at 10 a.m. to allow Ruth and Julia to listen to the complete DPH conference call.

10:20 a.m. SG: Motion to adjourn second BM roll call: JS yes, AS: yes BM: yes RD yes, SG yes

Respectfully submitted
Patti White
Department Assistant
Health Department
04172020minutes
04172020minutes Approved 06082020