



## Meeting Minutes #0507.20

### MEDFIELD BOARD OF HEALTH

Meeting dated May 7, 2020

**Members Present:** Carol Read, Stephen Resch, Holly Rand, and Melissa Coughlin, members,

**Also Present:** Bridget Sweet, Health Agent; Nancy Bennotti, Administrative Assistant; Kristine Trierweiler, Town Administrator; Police Chief M Guerrette; Fire Chief W Carrico; and Kevin Ryder, Director / Medfield Parks & Recreation

#### **Meeting was through Zoom teleconferencing.**

The Board of Health will meet every week at the request of the Town Administrator to provide update / guidance with regard to the current COVID-19 crisis.

Mrs Read opened the meeting and expressed appreciation to the town administration for the leadership shown during this difficult time;

Mrs Trierweiler confirmed that the former Medfield State Hospital is to be left open. It was noted that other towns are closing open spaces which puts pressure on Medfield due to the increased use. Mrs Coughlin asked if the police felt comfortable policing. Chief Guerrette confirmed that the patrols have been increased to hourly patrols. There were only 2 complaint calls the entire weekend. Chief Guerrette noted that it is necessary to strike a balance between residents at each end of the tolerance spectrum. If necessary it is possible for the Police Dept. to increase patrols to a detail officer to serve as a “presence or reminder”

Mrs Read did note that Mrs. Kathy Thompson, who is a school nurse at the Dale Street School, has reached out regarding volunteering in a contact tracing capacity to assist the public health nurse.

The Governor’s office has mandated that masks are to be worn in public. Is this something that the police would enforce? BOH members can advise that residents should follow mandate. The health agent will follow up with more information regarding enforcement.

Mrs. Trierweiler advised that some local restaurants would like to sell groceries, including meat, and prepared meal kits. The health agent advised that the City of Somerville's approval criteria / protocols are quite comprehensive and she will review for possible use by Medfield. Mrs. Sweet did point out that this would be an extension of their current permit and will be rescinded when life returns to normal. Mrs. Trierweiler also advised that she is considering a plan to find outdoor seating for the town's restaurants. She is working with the Town Planner in this endeavor. Dr Resch commented that all restaurant business needs a consistent end date in order to not cause competition among businesses. Mrs. Sweet suggests that permits include language such as: "allowable at discretion of Board of Health for duration of the COVID-19 emergency".

Dr Resch made a motion that the Board of Health establish a process to allow Retail Food Establishments to sell grocery items on a temporary basis due to the COVID emergency. Retail Food Establishments that are interested in selling grocery items should contact the Town's Health Agent, Bridget Sweet, to review their plans. Retail Food Establishments selling grocery items are expected to comply with the relevant food safety regulations. The duration of the temporary permission will be at the Town's discretion. Mrs. Coughlin seconded the motion; vote was by roll call, 4-0, unanimous.

The health agent advised that there has been nothing from the state with regard to camps. More information is expected May 18<sup>th</sup>.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 15, 2020 at 1100 am by Zoom teleconferencing.

Mrs Coughlin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 pm, Mrs Rand seconded the motion, and vote was by roll call, 4-0 unanimous, motion carried.

**Meeting adjourned.**

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August 18, 2020