



Meeting Minutes #0520.20

MEDFIELD BOARD OF HEALTH Meeting dated May 20, 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; Alyssa Kaiser, RN, Natick Walpole VNA; Police Chief M Guerrette; Kevin Ryder, Medfield Parks & Recreation; Chris Potts and Kathy Thompson

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;

Alyssa Kaiser, RN spoke with the board concerning antibody testing. Although the presence of antibodies may indicate an “old” infection, it is still necessary to isolate and quarantine contacts in lieu of opting to submit to a PCR test. There is presently a case where a resident would prefer not to take the PCR test. Ms Kaiser requested the board’s permission to deliver a notice of isolation and quarantine with an escort by the police department. Dr Resch made a motion to allow the public health nurse to issue a public health order letter specific to this case being discussed. Mrs Coughlin seconded the motion; roll call vote was 4-0 unanimous.

With regard to the state re-opening order, there have been mixed messages causing confusion with the re-opening. Police Chief Guerrette did note that the Governor did amend his order to allow social distancing re: outdoor unenclosed space with a larger group. However, the health agent, Mrs. Sweet, did note that the definition of “outdoor unenclosed space” is being questioned and that this guidance has not been issued yet.

Mrs. Sweet stated that a phased re-opening plan estimated 2-3 phased re-opening. Also, the Board of Health will be reactive re: customer complaints rather than trying to inspect all affected businesses as they re-open. Reviewing proper steps to take before being fined, etc.

Mrs. Read stated with regard to the Dale Street School project, the Board will “stay in their lane” with regard to commenting, etc. Mrs Rand, Mrs Coughlin and Dr Resch reported that they had attended the May 19th Dale St School Project Public Information Session where some questions were raised related to public health. Dr Resch reported that in general, he found the responses of the meeting hosts to those health-related questions to be reasonable, highlighting that new buildings built with modern materials and using modern building codes are undoubtedly significantly healthier than older buildings. With respect to infectious disease transmission risks, Mrs Rand, Mrs Coughlin and Dr Resch concurred that increasing school capacity from two grades to three grades would not likely present any health concerns.

Kevin Ryder stated that there has been no guidance issued by the state. With regard to the use of the public tennis courts at Metacomet, under Phase 1 there are many restrictions, i.e.: only members of same household can play, no pickup games allowed, etc. There is also the challenge of enforcement. Parks and Recreation decided to hold off until Phase 2 when it can be less restrictive. Under any phase, however, spectators will not be allowed.

There are an overwhelming amount of restrictions involved in operating the camp program and Hinkley swim pond. However, the program will remain a camp program rather than a playground program.

Chief Guerrette reported that there has been trespassing and vandalism at the former state hospital. This nuisance behavior is anticipated. The Board of Selectmen are not changing their policy towards keeping the hospital open as break-ins/vandalism is common and not due to the increased use of the property.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 27, 2020 at 300 pm by Zoom teleconferencing.

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

Meeting adjourned.

Meeting Minutes: #0520.20
August 18, 2020