

Wellesley Board of Health
Remote Meeting via Zoom
Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2021
12:00 PM

Present:

Board:

Shepard Cohen, MPA, Chair
Marcia Testa Simonson, MPH, PhD, Vice Chair
Linda Oliver Grape, PA-C, MPH, Secretary
Carol Hannenberg, MD, Associate Member

Staff:

Wanda Alvarez, LSW, Community Social Worker
Jessica Cliff, MHA, Environmental Health Specialist
Deadra Doku Gardner, MS, Administrator
Leonard Izzo, MS, RS, CHO, Director
Cheryl Lefman, MA, Community Health Coordinator
Ann Marie McCauley, RN, Public Health Nursing Supervisor
Joyce Saret, LICSW, Senior Community Social Worker
Vivian Zeng, REHS, RS, CP-FS, Senior Environmental Health Specialist

In attendance:

Bob Brown, The Swellesley Report
Linda Chow, Chair, School Committee, Wellesley Public Schools
Linda Corridan, Director of Nursing, Wellesley Public Schools
Shira Doron, MD, Resident
Lisa Fico, Resident
David Lussier, Superintendent, Wellesley Public Schools
Anne Perkin, Resident
Ellen Subramaniam, Resident
Beth Sullivan Woods, Member, Select Board
Lloyd Tarlin, MD, Resident, former Board member

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 PM.

Citizen Speak

Lisa Fico reported that she is a Wellesley Public School parent and wished to offer thanks to the Board of Health, Health Department staff, School Committee and

Wellesley Public School staff. She reported that she is looking forward to the release of the position paper on guidance for reopening of schools.

1. Community Health

a) COVID-19 Update

Ann Marie McCauley reported that since the last meeting, there have been 21 new cases in the community, however two or three were from those who do not reside in Wellesley.

Ms. McCauley reported there have been 24 new cases at Babson College since the last meeting. These cases are in addition to the 21 new cases in the community.

b) Babson College

Linda Oliver Grape reported her concerns regarding the increase in cases at Babson College. She inquired whether the College will have a spring break. The board discussed safety precautions that could be put into place to prevent additional spread of COVID-19 on campus. Should the Babson population go on spring break, additional surveillance would be beneficial following students' return to campus. Leonard Izzo reported that he and Ann Marie McCauley will be speaking with College administrators this week and will report back.

c) COVID-19 – Wellesley Public Schools (WPS)

Marcia Testa Simonson reviewed the Board of Health position paper/statement: *Achieving Full In-Class Public School Education*.

The Board of Health approved the statement with one edit. Marcia Testa Simonson reported that the statement has been posted to the Mass. Association of Health Boards as a draft template for all 351 Boards of Health in the Commonwealth.

David Lussier announced that Wellesley K -5 students will be returning to fulltime classroom learning on April 5, 2021. Issues that are most challenging are at the Middle and High schools as the spaces are smaller. The timeline for return to school for secondary education has not yet been defined, and there are some operational challenges that must be addressed.

d) COVID-19 Vaccine and Clinics

Ann Marie McCauley reported that the clinic at a Housing Authority location on Friday, March 5, 2021 went well, however the space was crowded. Approximately 62 residents were vaccinated at the clinic and two homebound residents were also vaccinated.

Marcia Testa Simonson reported that CVS has several new locations (including one in Wellesley) that will be offering vaccinations to teachers/faculty. She noted that firefighters' unions want to vaccinate teachers however the problem is not vaccinators but limited vaccine.

e) Quarantine and Travel Guidelines

Leonard Izzo reported that although the CDC has updated guidance for vaccinated individuals, the Commonwealth has not yet adopted the CDC guidelines.

f) Social Services/Mental Health

Shepard Cohen confirmed the meeting of mental health professionals to discuss how to leverage and expand upon resources to address mental health needs of students. The meeting has been scheduled for March 19, 2021, 2:30 PM.

Joyce Saret reported on the group that meets on Fridays, noting that the group is relatively small but is working well.

g) Marijuana Dispensaries

Jessica Cliff reported on the plan for the marijuana dispensaries in Natick. Bob Brown said that Natick is expected to award a permit to one location. Public hearings are being planned to discuss locations close the Wellesley/Natick line on route 9.

2. Environmental Health

a) Tobacco Regulations

Leonard Izzo reported that draft regulations are being updated. Jessica Cliff reported she is working on language on coupons and incentives before the final draft can be reviewed.

b) Food Establishments

Vivian Zeng reported that Café Mangal and Fiorella's have applied for temporary outdoor dining permits effective April 1. Ms. Zeng expects other restaurants to apply.

Vivian Zeng reported on the Nourishing Wellesley food program. This program is funded by a grant from the Newton/Needham Chamber of Commerce for restaurants to provide healthy meals to food insecure residents. Thus far only 6 food establishments have applied for the grant.

c) Village Church

Vivian Zeng is assisting the Church with their food insecurity program.

3. Executive Session

The Board of Health moved into Executive Session at 12:25 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled on March 10, 2021, 11:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Deadra Doku Gardner

Administrator