

Wellesley Board of Health
Remote Meeting via Zoom
Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2021
11:30 AM

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:

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

In attendance:

Shira Doron, MD, Resident
Beth Sullivan Woods, Member, Select Board

The following meeting minutes were approved: March 22, 2021.

1. Community Health

a) COVID-19 Update

Ann Marie McCauley reported there is an average of four new COVID cases each day, the majority of which are from household transmission. Additional cases have included: a cluster of cases in the Babson College men's lacrosse team; a positive case at a gym resulting in 10 individuals requiring quarantine, and a pee-wee hockey team's cases resulted in many having to quarantine.

b) Babson College – COVID-19 Update

Leonard Izzo reported on his weekly Thursday meeting with Babson College administration. He said that aside from the COVID cluster of lacrosse players, the COVID positive numbers at the school have improved since his last report.

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

At the last meeting, David Lussier reported on the WPS full in-person classroom opening timeline and plans. Families were asked via a survey if they wanted their children to be in full remote learning or in-person classroom learning for the remainder of the school year.

d) Transportation Grant

Leonard Izzo reported that Wellesley Health Department (WHD) received a \$750 grant from the Community Fund for Wellesley, COVID-19 Relief Fund, to provide transportation to residents who need to get to their vaccination appointments. Jessica Cliff reached out to JFK Taxi service in Natick and will be establishing a contract for this purpose. Beth Sullivan Woods will inquire as to whether this funding can also assist residents with other transportation needs.

e) Social Services/Mental Health

Joyce Saret reported that she attended recent meetings on civil discourse.

2. Environmental Health

a) Pools

Vivian Zeng reported that pool permit renewals have been sent out.

b) Camps

Vivian Zeng reported on newly released camp guidelines from the State. She will be speaking with camp operators in the next few days to ensure that they understand and will adhere to the guidelines.

c) Merchants Association

Vivian Zeng reported that she is working with merchants' associations representing Central Street and Linden Square. Various events (including outdoor concerts) are being planned.

Leonard Izzo reported that he has received complaints regarding non-compliance of COVID prevention protocols in some of the local businesses and public areas. Mr. Izzo suggested reinforcing the message (in the next Town briefing), that many people still haven't been vaccinated and therefore, everyone must continue to follow the guidelines regarding distancing, mask wearing and hand hygiene.

Mr. Izzo provided an example of the confusion around guidelines; a gym owner contacted WHD asking if he can relax the standards in his

location as all his staff have been vaccinated, and in addition, only allow vaccinated members inside. Mr. Izzo said this was not possible and reiterated that he needed to comply with and continue to follow the safety protocols.

Dr. Doron reported on CDC guidelines indicating that vaccinated individuals can get together with unvaccinated people in a private setting, but not in a public one. Unlike other countries, there was no forethought from the federal government on developing infrastructure on the standardization of proof of vaccination, such as with a QR code.

3. Administration

a) Select Board

Beth Sullivan Woods reported that the Select Board has reorganized. Ann Mara Lanza has been elected to the Board and Colette Aufranc has been reelected.

b) Human Resources Board

Linda Oliver Grape reported that she is finalizing a document to send to the Human Resources Board.

c) Board Meetings

The Board of Health agreed that going forward they will eliminate the Wednesday morning meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled on March 29, 2021, 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Deadra Doku Gardner
Administrator