

Wellesley Board of Health
CONFERENCE CALL
Meeting Minutes
April 29, 2020
2:30 pm

Present:

Board:

Shepard Cohen, MPA, Chair
Marcia Testa Simonson, MPH, PhD, Vice Chair
Linda Oliver Grape, PA-C, MPH, Secretary

Staff:

Ann Marie McCauley, Public Health Nurse Supervisor
Holly Detroy, Environmental Health Specialist
Deadra Doku-Gardner, Administrator
Leonard Izzo, Director
Cheryl Lefman, Community Health Coordinator
Krisann Miller, Public Health Nurse
Joyce Saret, Community Social Worker
Vivian Zeng, Environmental Health Specialist

In attendance:

Beth Sullivan Woods, Board of Selectmen
Raina McManus, Natural Resources Commission

The meeting was called to order at 2:33 pm.

Minutes were approved from April 22, 2020.

1. Administration

a) Director's Report

Leonard Izzo provided the following updates:

- Mr. Izzo elaborated on recent issues surrounding Coronavirus in the Town of Wellesley (see below).
- Wellesley Public School High School graduation – Mr. Izzo and Beth Sullivan Woods reported on the possibility of a High School graduation procession through town.

b) Masks and Face Coverings

The Board of Health discussed various risks and benefits of the use of a mask. Marcia Testa Simonson reported that the current guidance is based on an individual's needs. No studies have shown that masks reduce the risk of transmission. No studies have been conducted on homemade masks.

Ms. Testa Simonson believes that guidance on the proper use of a mask should be promoted, as the public is not currently using masks correctly.

Raina McManus reported that she would like to have a temporary regulation requiring mask use.

Mr. Izzo reported that he has been working with the office of Town Counsel as to who and where masks should be required.

Mr. Izzo will report to Board of Selectmen and Meghan Jop. Mr. Izzo will further discuss this with Town Counsel. Board of Selectmen have a meeting scheduled for Monday evening.

Additional information will be provided at the next meeting.

c) Wellesley's COVID-19 Relief Fund (sponsored by the Community Fund for Wellesley/Foundation for MetroWest)

Beth Sullivan Woods reported the Community Fund for Wellesley has awarded grants to the Health Department, Wellesley Service League, Fire Department and Elizabeth Seton.

At the last meeting, Linda Oliver Grape and Joyce Saret provided options (for use of the fund) including: meal purchase and delivery from local restaurants to homebound residents and for Human Relations Services (HRS) to conduct mental health webinars.

2. Community Health

a) Supporting Wellesley Care Line (staffed by the COA)

Linda Oliver Grape and Joyce Saret reported that the majority of calls are coming in from seniors. Thus far there have been between one and seven calls per day.

b) Community Events

Leonard Izzo reported that he has received requests to hold community events and activities from groups such as the Bird

Watching Group and the Wellesley Women's Junior League. Mr. Izzo will review these activities on a case by case basis.

3) Public Health Nursing

a) Coronavirus – cases, etc.

Ann Marie McCauley reported that there were 5 cases that came in today, however these are repeat cases from the long term care facilities. No new cases have come in from the community.

Ms. McCauley reported that she and the nursing staff continue to contact the facilities on a regular basis.

4) Environmental Health

a) Livestock permits

Leonard Izzo reported that the office has received several requests for new livestock permits. As time permits, Mr. Izzo will complete paperwork and grant approval for these requests.

The Board of Health (BOH) voted to approve a request for chickens at 457 Weston Road.

b) Variance Requests

Leonard Izzo reported there have been variance requests on several projects. Mr. Izzo requests Board of Health approval on these and asked that the requests be added to the agenda of an upcoming BOH meeting.

c) Food Establishments

- Yummy Sushi

Vivian Zeng reported on the new sushi operation going into Roche Brothers. Ms. Zeng said she will be conducting the opening inspection on Thursday. She does not anticipate any issues.

Holly Detroy reported that she has contacted all the restaurants currently operating in Wellesley. Most employees are wearing face masks, however Ms. Detroy noted that Qdoba employees are not wearing masks per their own choice.

The next conference call of the Board of Health is scheduled for April 23, 2020 at 2:30 pm.

The Board of Health meeting adjourned at 3:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deadra Doku Gardner
Administrator

Documents reviewed during this meeting and on-file in the Health Department:

- NONE