

Wellesley Board of Health  
CONFERENCE CALL  
Meeting Minutes  
May 20, 2020  
2:30 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:

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

In attendance:

John Lanza, Advisory Committee, Liaison  
Beth Sullivan Woods, Board of Selectmen

The meeting was called to order at 2:34 pm.

The Board of Health approved the following minutes: May 13, 2020 and May 18, 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.

b) Morses Pond and Morses Pond Beach

Leonard Izzo reported on the status of Moses Pond and discussions taking place as to whether the town owned beach and property will be opened and operated by the Recreation Department for the summer season.

Additional information will be provided at the next meeting.

c) Phase I

Leonard Izzo and Marcia Testa Simonson reviewed the office space piece of Phase I of the Massachusetts reopening plan.

Mr. Izzo highlighted the 25% cap on office building occupancy and a very strong “Work from Home” advisory for all those who can operate remotely. Additional clarification is required and will be presented at the next meeting.

d) Long Term Care Facilities

Ann Marie McCauley reported that the long- term care facilities are no longer operating in “crisis mode” and are doing well. Volunteers from the community continue to assist at Elizabeth Seton’s Marillac Residence.

e) Budget 2021

Leonard Izzo reported that he along with the Board of Health (BOH) will be presenting to the Advisory Committee this evening. Mr. Izzo will highlight how the pandemic has affected the health department and what the department’s needs will be in the future. Due to the changes in public health, the department will require additional staff, as well as office space. Mr. Izzo will request a benefitted nursing position, as well as a benefitted social worker position.

Mr. Izzo reported that Sheryl Strother contacted him yesterday notifying him that the Financial Services office was unaware of the upcoming changes and requests to the FY21 operating budget.

John Lanza said he expects the Board of Selectmen to elaborate on the loss of revenue in Wellesley during tonight’s Advisory meeting.

Mr. Lanza suggested that Mr. Izzo and the BOH provide an update regarding the status of COVID-19 and its impact on the Health Department (staff, requirements, enforcement education, services, PPE, etc.).

As there is an increase in the scope of services and increased demand for public health and health services going forward (due to COVID-19), Mr. Lanza suggested that Mr. Izzo highlight the budget changes to reflect this demand.

Beth Sullivan Woods reported that the Finance Department believes there does not need to be additional changes to Article 8, and departments are in good shape. Should there be any necessary changes over the first few months of the new fiscal year, the Finance Department believes it can be reviewed in the fall.

As noted at the last meeting, guidelines include mandatory workplace safety standards, as well as sector-specific workplace standards and protocols. Additional funding will be needed for staffing (nursing, enforcement, education, etc.), supplies, PPE as well as changes to physical building space.

Additional information will be provided at the next meeting.

## **2. Community Health**

### **a) Mental Health**

At the last meeting, Joyce Saret reported that calls to the Supporting Wellesley care line have plateaued. She reported that Mark Kline from Human Relations Service will be attending the Board of Health meeting on Wednesday, May 27, 2020.

Additional information will be provided at the next meeting.

## **3. Public Health Nursing**

### **a) Coronavirus – cases, etc.**

Ann Marie McCauley reported one new case today.

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

### **b) Antibody Testing**

Linda Oliver Grape reported the value of antibody testing is debatable as it is as good as the day that the test is done.

Ms. Oliver Grape elaborated that there is an ongoing discussion in regards to who is going to cover the cost of the testing. Insurance companies believe the government should be responsible, and the government believes that the insurance companies should be responsible.

Ms. Oliver Grape reported there are multiple tests available. She noted there are consequences to having the antibody test, which the general public does not understand. Individuals who are tested must be quarantined for 10 days and their contacts are to be quarantined for the following two weeks. If the person tests antibody positive, they must quarantine.

Marica Testa Simonson reported on the MAHB call this morning. She said employees that have tested positive are to contact the local board of health in the community in which they are employed. Additional clarification will be provided as it becomes available.

#### **4) Environmental Health**

a) Food Establishments

Additional information will be provided at the next meeting.

The next conference call of the Board of Health is scheduled for Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at 2:30 pm.

The Board of Health meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deadra Doku Gardner  
Administrator

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

- NONE