

Wellesley Board of Health
CONFERENCE CALL
Meeting Minutes
June 3, 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
Deadra Doku-Gardner, Administrator
Leonard Izzo, Director
Cheryl Lefman, Community Health Coordinator
Joyce Saret, Community Social Worker

In attendance:

Bob Brown, Swellesley Report
John Lanza, Advisory Committee, Liaison
Beth Sullivan Woods, Board of Selectmen

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 pm.

The Board of Health approved the following minutes: May 20, 2020 and May 27, 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) Social Worker Position

Shep Cohen and Leonard Izzo reported that a new social worker is being hired. Mr. Izzo is working with the Human Resource Department to expedite the hiring process.

Additional information will be provided at the next meeting.

c) PHASE I - Department of Public Health

Leonard Izzo reported on the Phase I reopening of MA. Mr. Izzo reported that the guidelines stated that recreational camps will be permitted to open, but only able to operate outside. Guidelines also indicated that indoor pool facilities were to remain closed. Today, the guidelines indicated that pools and camps may operate indoors. Fitness studios and gyms cannot open until a later phase.

Mr. Izzo reported the Department of Public Health is not communicating well with local boards of health. Reports and guidelines provided on the opening of Massachusetts offer conflicting and confusing messages.

In addition to local boards of health/health departments' concerns about the conflicting messages, Mr. Izzo reported that complaints and requests for clarification are coming in from residents and businesses. Many calls have come from tanning businesses, hair salons and barber shops in regards to guidelines and protocols.

d) Morses Pond

Vivian Zeng reported that Morses Pond beach will be open. Grids 12 feet by 12 feet are being marked out in accordance to the beach guidelines. No lifeguards, picnic tables, restrooms and grills will be available. Signage will be posted notifying visitors that the beach is an unguarded body of water and they may swim *at their own risk*.

Leonard Izzo reported at the last meeting that the Recreation Commission voted to keep Morses Pond beach closed this year. He said there will be no lifeguards on duty and park rangers will be hired to patrol the area.

Additional information will be provided at the next meeting.

e) Metrowest COVID-19 Restaurant Grant

As noted at a previous meeting, the Board of Health was awarded a grant of \$6,000 to provide a restaurant meal (one time) to identified residents impacted by COVID-19. Joyce Saret reported the program is going well.

- f) Metrowest COVID-19 Merchant Grant (Wellesley Square Merchants Association)

The Board of Health and the Wellesley Square Merchants Association were awarded a grant of \$15,000 to assist the merchants in preparing their locations for retail visitors. Beth Sullivan Woods of the Board of Selectmen, Ann Marie McCauley of the Health Department and Don McCauley of the Planning Department have been working with Demian Wendro, owner of London Harness on this initiative. Wellesley retailers will be provided with personal protective equipment including masks, thermometers and other items.

- g) General Coalition Call

Cheryl Lefman provided an update on today's General Coalition call.

2. Community Health

- a) Mental Health and Social Services

Joyce Saret provided a summary of the social work services throughout town. She works closely with the social workers from the schools, police, youth commission and Council on Aging.

Ms. Saret reported that the meal programs are going well. Ms. Saret is concerned that the free or reduced meal program for at risk/low income children will end on June 16th. She is working with other town social workers on further assisting the families. Maura Renzella has been researching options for food for these children and families.

Cheryl Lefman reported that Jon Mattleman is developing video programming on mental health issues. The first one will be on parenting during COVID-19. The videos will be sponsored by Community Health Network Area 18 (CHNA 18). Additional information will be provided at a later meeting.

- b) Council on Aging (COA)

Joyce Saret reported that the COA will vote on a new director on Thursday, June 4, 2020.

3. Public Health Nursing

- c) Coronavirus – cases, etc.

Ann Marie McCauley reported that she is pleased that COVID19 numbers continue on to trend downward. One new case was reported today.

d) Long term care

Ann Marie McCauley reported on the local long-term care facilities. Area nursing homes are taking new patients and testing is being done in advance of a new patient arrival. The facilities are holding up well.

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

4) Environmental Health

a) Mosquito Planning

Leonard Izzo reported that there are multiple mosquito planning meetings scheduled.

b) Food Establishments

Leonard Izzo reported that food establishments are contacted by the environmental health agents regularly; all are doing well.

Holly Detroy reported that there is a great deal of work to be completed before the restaurants can reopen.

The next conference call of the Board of Health is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 2:30 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Deadra Doku Gardner
Administrator

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

- NONE