

Wellesley Board of Health
Meeting (Zoom) Minutes
August 17, 2020
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, Administrator
Leonard Izzo, Director
Cheryl Lefman, Community Health Coordinator
Krisann Miller, Public Health Nurse

In attendance:

Beth Sullivan Woods, Board of Selectmen

The meeting was called to order at 11:32 am.

1. Administration

a) Wellesley Public Schools – School Reopening Plan- Metrics

Leonard Izzo reported that he is organizing a group to review metrics for both schools reopening (macro) and for responses to any positive school cases (micro). He will be addressing these issues with the Superintendent, as well as the public health and school nurses. A meeting of the working group is scheduled for Tuesday 8/18/20.

Shepard Cohen reiterated that whatever metrics are developed for the schools must also apply to non-school buildings. The Board of Health indicated that the matrices and data should include descriptions of scenarios.

b) Nursing report

Krisann Miller reported there have been no positive cases reported of individuals who attended the Wellesley High School outdoor graduation.

Krisann Miller reported there are three new confirmed (by PCR testing) cases.

Shepard Cohen requested a simple table showing case numbers, primarily so that trends and any spikes can be analyzed. It was suggested that any table could be derived from the Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (MAVEN).

c) School Reopening Report

Krisann Miller sits on the Building Safety Committee. The schools are in the process of planning how lunch will be served to every student, for which the schools have ordered tents.

Ms. Miller said that by the end of the week, parents have to decide if children will attend school either remotely or via the hybrid plan.

The Wellesley Teachers Union has not yet voted on the return to school. There is great fear among teachers about returning to school buildings with students. Marcia Testa Simonson reported there appears to be a new concern among teachers and staff who have school age children at home. Teachers are concerned about who will monitor their own children if they have to leave the house to go to work.

d) Advisory

The Advisory Committee would like the Board of Health to appear before Advisory to review the status of the Department's budget.

Beth Sullivan Woods reported that the Board of Health will need to bring a budget request to Town Meeting in October. Permanent funding needs to be in place to cover the second social worker position and the second full-time nursing position. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act funding will cover these positions until December.

Mr. Izzo reported the Board of Health had requested to present this budget request to Town Meeting at the spring session however were told that it would not be necessary. It later came out that the Board was not allowed to circumvent the process and would require a Town Meeting vote.

e) Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Drill

Cheryl Lefman reported there is a Q1 quarterly drill today for Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers. The scenario involves whether volunteers would be available to staff a (mock) flu clinic. In addition, the drill provides an opportunity for volunteers to learn about and register for the State's notification and accreditation system MA Responds.

f) Voting

Beth Sullivan Woods reported that polling places will be open on September 1st and she hopes that flu vaccine would be available. Ann Marie McCauley reported that she is not sure whether the vaccine will be in by that date.

At 12:45 p.m. the Board of Health unanimously voted to move into executive session.

The next conference call of the Board of Health will be on Wednesday, August 19, 2020.

The Board of Health meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm.