

Wellesley Board of Health  
Zoom Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
September 21, 2020  
11:30 AM

Present:

Board:

Shepard Cohen, MPA, Chair  
Linda Oliver Grape, PA-C, MPH, Secretary

Staff:

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

In attendance:

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

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 am.

**1. Administration**

a) Recreation Department Programs

Vivian Zeng received complaints in regards to Recreation Department programs that are running in the Warren Building. Ms. Zeng reported that one instructor has decided to remove the mask mandate requirement from her workout classes. The instructor is going to cap the class size and make it mask optional. Ms. Zeng reported the classes are spaced appropriately.

b) Warren Building

Leonard Izzo stressed that the Department needs additional office space.

c) Advisory - FY21 Budget presentation

John Lanza reported there was no additional discussion following the Health Department's presentation to the Advisory Committee last Wednesday.

Beth Sullivan Woods confirmed that the money to fund the additional Health Department positions (environmental health, social worker and nursing) will come from a Board of Selectmen motion at the October Town Meeting to use free cash. It is believed that a portion of CARES Act funding will be used to fund these positions thru December and free cash will be used to cover the salaries for the remainder of the fiscal year. Additional information will be provided at the next meeting.

d) Wellesley Public Schools and COVID Testing

Mr. Izzo reported that the School Committee and School Department have signed two contracts for baseline testing of teachers and students and for surveillance testing of teachers. Mr. Izzo reported these contracts were finalized without consultation with the Health Department.

Mr. Izzo elaborated on how and when testing will be conducted. Saliva testing of teachers will be conducted on Thursday and Friday of this week. Testing will be done at each school (outside under a tent) and overseen by the school nurses (who will have received training on screening of the teaching faculty). Once the test is completed, it will be sent to a lab in Virginia. There is expected to be a 72 hour turn around.

Mr. Izzo reported the student body will be tested at the Municipal Light Plant (MLP) garage on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. The testing will be a nasal swab and will be conducted by an agency staffed by Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and other personnel. Testing turnaround time is expected to be 24 hours from the time the lab receives the sample.

The Board of Health agreed that the nursing and environmental health staff should review the floor plan and operation in advance of the testing. Ann Marie McCauley and her team of nurses will be reviewing both the teacher testing, as well as the student testing conducted at the MLP garage.

John Lanza indicated that neither the School Department nor the Health Department need a state clinic license, since screening is not considered a "clinic" function. In any case, local health departments never need a clinic license.

Leonard Izzo reported the waste from the testing sites will be delivered to the Fire Department. Waste will then be removed by Stericycle under the Health Department's existing contract.

Beth Sullivan Woods reported the School Department is requesting \$300,000 from the town budget to cover the costs of the testing. Ms. Sullivan Woods expects this to be all inclusive.

Ann Marie McCauley noted that any positive cases will be reported thru MAVEN. She will continue to work closely with school nurses to conduct contact tracing.

## 2. Community Health

### a) COVID-19 update

Ann Marie McCauley confirmed one new case of COVID-19 however it is a college-age student in Connecticut. In addition, there have been multiple Wellesley close contacts of a single case of a Wellesley resident attending school in Brookline.

Ms. McCauley said there have been no reported positive cases from Wellesley College. Babson College had three cases since they started classes in August.

### b) Flu Report

Ann Marie McCauley reported that she is starting employee flu clinics. The first clinic will be held at the Fire Department on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### c) Newton Wellesley Hospital (NWH) - Proposed Testing

Shepard Cohen reiterated that he anticipates that Newton Wellesley Hospital (NWH) will offer expedited testing for symptomatic Wellesley residents, students, teachers and employees, when no other resource for rapid testing is available.

### d) School Filters

Linda Oliver Grape reported that HVAC filters are not expected to be in all of the Wellesley Public Schools before November.

The Board of Health agrees that ventilation in the schools is a critical factor in preventing the spread of Covid-19.

e) Halloween

Beth Sullivan Woods has put together a working group to discuss possible town-offered and town-sanctioned programs for Halloween.

The next meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled for Tuesday, September 2020 at 10 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deadra Doku Gardner  
Administrator