



## BOH MEETING MINUTES 08-03-2020

Attending via TEAMS Conference Call  
Call # 1 617-433-9462, Conference ID: 178 574 505#  
Joseph Tennyson, MD, Chair  
Jim Griffin, Vice-Chair  
Robin Williams, Member

Also, in attendance: Director John Garside, Public Health Nurse Michelle Andrade, and Clerk Tina Nolin

**Meeting called to order 6:30 pm**

### **Reading and Approval of Minutes**

- Minutes for July 6th meeting: Chair Tennyson motioned to approve, Member Williams seconded the motion, Board roll call vote was 3-0 to approve the July 3rd, 2020 minutes.

### **New Business**

- **Introduction of new Public Health Nurse, Michelle Andrade, BSN, RN**  
Michelle has been a nurse for ten years. She has worked at Marlborough hospital and was a nurse at the Hildreth School in the City. Michelle has worked with the department since March when the school nurses began conducting contact tracing for COVID-19. So far, Michelle has continued to work on contact tracing, inspections of recreational camp health forms and protocols, and TB cases.
- **Update and Discussion of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)**  
Director Garside updated the Board on the recent activities of the Health Department regarding COVID-19.
  - As of this meeting, the City has 1043 cases since February, 948 people have recovered, and there have been 66 deaths. We currently have 29 active cases; two are in long-term care facilities. The City is averaging 2.3 instances over the past seven days; up from our lowest rate to date of .57 cases/day over a 7-day period during the 2nd week of July. There have not been any real clusters, beyond 1 -2 people in our businesses, recreation camps, and day programs.
  - Our past two-week average positivity rate, as reported by DPH, is 2.56%, while the statewide positivity rate during the same period is 1.7%.
  - The positivity rate in the Stop the Spread Program at our three Marlborough locations overall is .72%. This lower rate is most likely due to the tests being on asymptomatic individuals, including those who want to go on vacation in other states. So far, 6644 tests have been conducted through this program. Although we are not sure how many are Marlborough residents. A snapshot from the hospital after one week of the Stop the Spread testing showed about 30% of their tests were Marlborough residents. The program is expected to run through August 14<sup>th</sup>, according to our weekly conference call with the state. The number of cities participating is now up to 16.

- Chair Tennyson's update: RtLive, a website reporting the current virus reproductive rate in the population, shows MA at over 1. It has been that way since June. 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup>. The Rt is now 1.11. The Rt should be less than 1 for the spread to slow and the virus to go away. It is concerning that this may mean we will see higher case rates soon.
- Member Williams reported on the meeting of the Coalition for Local Boards of Public Health. The meeting included a seminar for health boards to talk about back to school issues and how the current DESE protocols appear to contradict some of the public health guidelines. The forum is still being developed, and there is room for us at the table to participate, if interested. It would allow us as a local board and public health officials to be sure we are all on the same page, voice our opinions and come to some decisions. There are a lot of conversations taking place and a lot going on behind the scenes. Member Williams was putting the information out to the Board should they or the department want to participate. Director Garside agreed that it is all very dynamic and that we have already seen DESE put out different guidance than DPH. Still, ultimately the school reopening plans will be made at the local level. If we then see incidences of COVID in the schools, it will be up to us to decide how much is too much. Any guidance we can get is welcome, but in the end, it will be up to Marlborough ultimately to decide what to do.
- Member Williams also reported that in Framingham, they were seeing a lot of cases of positive children in daycares and their parents. They had seen four or five such instances in the past few days, and she was wondering if Marlborough is seeing the same. Director Garside said we'd had some, but not a lot and not in any one center

### **Director's Update**

Schools: Director Garside reported that he has been working with the Marlborough public-school system (MPS), as well as Assabet Vocational Technical High School, AMSA, and soon to be Hillside regarding their back-to-school plans. Weekly meetings with the MPS have already been scheduled as they move forward, and the same will be done with Assabet, AMSA, and Hillside. MPS and Assabet are both looking at conducting hybrid models, while AMSA will be all remote.

EEE and West Nile Virus: Director Garside reported that Marlborough is at low risk for both EEE and WNV at this time. Positive mosquitos for EEE in Plymouth and Franklin counties have been reported, and a human case of EEE has been reported in Plymouth county. Mosquitos positive for West Nile Virus have been found in Middlesex, Suffolk, Norfolk, and Plymouth counties.

Flu Clinics: the department is evaluating our flu clinic options as we move into fall, specifically, how they can be held and where they will be held. The current thinking is to hold a citywide drive-thru clinic and additional smaller supplemental clinics, and all will be promoted as "by appointment." This will be fleshed out more over the next few weeks.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Site Plan, Subdivision, and Special Permit Updates**

Veolia Environmental site plan: Veolia is requesting a general permit from Environmental Protection for a proposed recycling activity. This activity will take place in Northborough, but a corner of their building is in Marlborough, and their frontage is in Marlborough; thus, they have a Marlborough address. Both Local Boards of Health received notification that the application was being sent to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. We have corresponded with the applicant over the phone, as

well as with DEP regarding it. Specifically, their proposed activity will be done in a totally enclosed area at all times. All operations will be conducted inside a building or vehicle. The materials will include only recyclable materials such as scrap metal, television sets, computers, electronics, light bulbs, containerized plastics, containerized glass. There will not be any processing, destruction, crushing, melting, etc. of these materials at this location. These materials would be simply collected, packaged, and sent to a third-party recycler when they have a full load, where they will be processed. What they are doing now is the materials are being brought in on a box truck or trailer truck, where they stay until shipped to the processing plant. The volume is relatively low – only a truck or two a week out of the site. Member Williams asked about issues with residuals that could lead to rodents. Director Garside responded that there shouldn't be but said he could put in his note to the applicant, and DEP that any contingency plan should include a pest control component. The Board decided Director Garside would forward their few comments to the applicant and DEP, and state that there were no objections to DEP issuing the permit.

**ADJOURN**

Vice-chair Griffin motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 pm; Chair Tennyson seconded, rollcall vote was 3-0 to adjourn.

The next meeting of the Board will be on September 14th, 2020, at 6:30 pm. Attendance will continue to be remote via Teams meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Dr. Joseph Tennyson

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09/14/2020  
Dated

Cc: Board of Health Members  
City Council, City Clerk, and City of Marlborough Website