



## **BOH MEETING MINUTES 07-06-2020**

Attending via TEAMS Conference Call  
Call # 1 617-433-9462, Conference ID: 642 675 433#  
Joseph Tennyson, MD, Chair  
Jim Griffin, Vice Chair  
Robin Williams, Member

Also, in attendance: Director John Garside, Assistant Sanitarian Trey Hassan, Clerk Tina Nolin

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

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

- Minutes for June 8 meeting: Vice-chair Griffin motioned to approve, Member Williams seconded the motion, Board roll call vote was 3-0 to approve the June 8, 2020 minutes.

### **New Business**

- **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 is averaging one new case per day. There are currently 19 active cases. As of today, there are six active cases in Marlborough's long-term care facilities.
  - The Department has commenced a messaging campaign aimed at promoting the wearing of face coverings. The campaign includes banners and digital signage in locations around the City. T-shirts have also been made for some community outreach. The two slogans for this campaign are:
    - One simple task...Just wear the mask!
    - Don't make 'em ask... wear a mask
  - In the newest Phase III reopening guidelines:
    - Fitness centers, indoor event spaces for meetings, and movie theaters may open at 40% capacity or eight people per 1000 square feet, not to exceed 25 people.
    - Fitness activities with low contact such as batting cages, driving ranges, go-karts, and bowling alleys may reopen.
  - The Stop the Spread Initiative is being rolled out by DPH in eight cities and towns, including Marlborough. Chosen municipalities are said to have a higher than the state average positivity rate and a slowdown in the number of tests performed during the last two weeks. The program provides free testing for anyone who wants a test, even if asymptomatic, uninsured, and no physician. Marlborough Hospital is looking into participating, and the state has promised a mobile van, which would be at Whitcomb School. If the hospital does not participate, the Department will be looking for someone else.

The program is supposed to start on Friday, July 10, and run until Friday, August 14.

Vice-chair Griffin asked if there will be public transportation access at the Whitcomb site. Director Garside said it would not. Vice-chair Griffin felt it would be useful to have the hospital on board as they have access to public transportation at their location.

- Chair Tennyson's update on UMASS ICU/ED reported that the hospital numbers continue to improve as of today, the number of COVID -19 patients at Marlborough Hospital is one, University Campus has seven, Memorial Hospital has twelve and Health Alliance has zero. Overall, Massachusetts's numbers are holding steady but are not declining.

### **Director's Update**

Director Garside reported that he and the Fire Chief had conducted a walk-through at the Council on Aging/Senior Center on New Street and the High School their capabilities for use as cooling centers and to set up COVID-19 protocols. A cooling center will only open if we have three or more days of over 90 degrees along with a black or brownout that disrupts services to homes. The COA was determined to be the best facility for use, and the High School would be a secondary facility if needed.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Introduction of Trey Hassan as a new Assistant Sanitarian**

The Director introduced Tray Hassan to the Board as the Department's newest Assistant Sanitarian. Trey started in March when COVID-19 just began. With his hiring, the Department once again has two Assistant Sanitarians. Mr. Hassan went to Worcester State, majoring in public health, and has prior experience working quality assurance for BJs wholesale.

#### **Principal Clerk Position**

Final approval from City Council regarding the reclassification of the Senior Clerk to the Principle Clerk position for Tina Nolin was approved last week.

#### **Nurses Position**

An offer has been made to an applicant for the Public Health Nurse position. Director Garside reported the Department was waiting to hear back from the applicant, stating that the salary has been a challenge in the past. He will keep the Board posted as negotiations move forward. Vice-chair Griffin asked how the salary survey conducted positioned Marlborough relative to other communities. Director Garside noted that the City's salary for the position is somewhat lower than in other places, but not significantly. The Director also reported that advertising for the position appeared on the MHOA and MAPHN websites, as well as two public sector sites, Monster and Indeed, to increase the possible applicant pool, and he has had some additional responses.

#### **Tobacco**

Director Garside reported that as of June 1, state law prohibits the sale of flavored and menthol tobacco. The Assistant Sanitarians completed compliance checks, and they went well. The City had only one establishment with some items "under the counter." They were told they could not keep them on site and had to get rid of them.

#### **EEE**

Director Garside informed the Board that there had been one case of EEE reported in mosquito pools in Orange, MA, but nothing so far in Marlborough. Ninety-four samples have been tested with no positives. In May, larviciding took place in catch basins and wetlands. Currently, adulticide via backpack spraying is occurring as requested by residents. Any air delivery of adulticide will come later if the Governor issues an emergency order as he did last year.

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

Director Garside presented a site plan of Walcott Heritage Farms located where the horse farm used to be on 339 Boston Post Road E across from La Tapatia Mexican Restaurant. The Zoning Board of Appeals is requesting comments from the Board of Health, Conservation, and the Planning Board. The plan calls for filling and recreating some of the flood plain areas.

After review of the plans and discussion, Chair Tennyson cited that the real issue for the Board was whether the change to the flood plain would adversely affect the risk of arbovirus in the area. The proposed flood plain changes do not suggest any increased risk as the proposed storage capacity has actually increased.

Chair Tennyson motioned based on the applicant's plan and the City Engineer's review of the flood plain alterations that the Board has no objection to the special permit issuance. These alterations appear to be within the spirit and purpose of the flood plain and wetland protection district ordinance. Vice-chair Griffin seconded the motion. A roll call vote approved the motion 3-0.

**Memorial Beach Update**

On June 22, the Mayor held a press conference outlining the new rules in the face of COVID-19. Specifically, the beach is for Marlborough residents, and there will only be one way in, and one way out, some parking spaces in the lot will be blocked off to cut down on numbers, and the beach gates will be locked at night. There will also be posted "no parking" on the side streets in the neighborhood abutting the beach. Restrooms opened on Weds, June 24, and the beach opened for the summer on June 26.

In response to questions from Vice-chair Griffin, Director Garside explained that the Department conducts beach testing at 6 locations on the lake every week. Usually, testing occurs early in the week so that retesting can be done if necessary, before a weekend. On average, it takes 24 hours to receive test results. The Department's indicator organism is E.coli, a standard for freshwater recreational areas. The public may always find out results by calling the Department directly.

**ADJOURN**

Vice-chair Griffin motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm, Member Williams, Seconded, roll call vote was 3-0 to adjourn.

The next meeting of the Board will be on August 3, 2020, at 6:30 pm. Attendance will continue to be remote via Teams meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Joseph Tennyson

\_\_\_\_\_  
August 3, 2020  
Dated

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