

Wellesley Board of Health
CONFERENCE CALL
Meeting Minutes
May 13, 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:

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:33 pm.

Minutes were approved from May 6, 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.
- Residents have been inquiring about where they can get anti body tests.

b) CVS and Testing

Ann Marie McCauley reported that she received two calls from residents who heard that the CVS on Linden Street will be doing PCR COVID-19 testing. Ms. McCauley confirmed they will start testing this Friday. Testing will be available to the general public (not limited to residents).

Ms. McCauley noted that people will obtain antibody testing because they believe they might have had COVID 19 or had been exposed to someone who had been ill. There is a very high false positive result.

Linda Oliver Grape reported that CVS plans on doing testing this Fall at many of their locations.

Marcia Testa Simonson reported that pop-up testing sites are being set up at various community hospitals. Wellesley is not a good location for this type of testing as there is a relatively low number of positive cases in the Town (in comparison to other communities).

c) Massachusetts Association of Health Boards (MAHB)

Marica Testa Simonson reported that MAHB asked Governor Baker's office to provide guidelines in advance of the May 18th Phase I roll out. Ms. Testa Simonson reported that no guidance will be provided until the May 18th announcement.

Leonard Izzo reported that no concrete information was provided during Governor Baker's press conference this afternoon. Mr. Izzo reported that businesses will be allowed to open based on how they interact with the public.

d) Contact Tracing Collaborative (CTC)

Marcia Testa Simonson and Ann Marie McCauley reported that there have been complaints about the CTC system, that it is not working as expected. Linda Oliver Grape reported that individuals making CTC calls are not clinicians.

e) Budget 2021

Shepard Cohen reported on upcoming budget changes. Additional funding will be needed for staffing (nursing, enforcement, education, etc.), supplies, PPE, as well as changes to physical building space. The Board of Health agreed that updates will be made to their current budget request.

John Lanza reported that the May 27 Town Meeting has been delayed to later in June 2020. The Board of Health as well as other boards will go

before Advisory and Town Meeting. Staff and boards should be prepared to answer questions about how the pandemic has affected town services. Departments will be asked about their ability/capacity to deliver services.

Beth Sullivan Woods reported on the recent Board of Selectman (BOS) meeting. The BOS will be meeting with the Advisory Committee in the coming weeks to review budgets. They have focused on cash capital and cuts in revenue.

Additional information will be provided at the next meeting.

f) Masks and Face Coverings

Beth Sullivan Woods reported that the Fire Department has initiated a program to deliver KN95 masks to seniors and residents in need. Fire staff will deliver the mask and offer guidance on the correct use of masks.

g) Business Community/Community Fund for Wellesley- Grant Opportunity

Beth Sullivan Woods reported that the business community is working with Ann Marie McCauley to apply for a grant from the Community Fund for Wellesley. The grant will assist businesses in providing safe workspaces.

h) Wellesley's COVID-19 Relief Fund (sponsored by the Community Fund for Wellesley/Foundation for MetroWest)

Joyce Saret reported on the grant funded meal delivery program. Thus far, 30 meals (Captain Marden's, Marks Pizza, North End Pizza) have been delivered. This two-week pilot program (of delivering meals from local restaurants to homebound residents) has been so well received, that an additional \$4000 has been awarded for the continuation of the program.

2. Community Health

a) Newton Wellesley Hospital (NWH)

Leonard Izzo and Shep Cohen reported on the NWH and local health departments/social service organizations call of Tuesday, May 12, 2020.

Cheryl Lefman reported that the new NWH president will begin in July 2020.

b) Mental Health

Joyce Saret reported there has been a small uptick of calls to the Supporting Wellesley care line, and thinks these numbers will increase as restrictions are lifted.

Beth Sullivan Woods reported that there is going to be a large need in the months to come.

3. Public Health Nursing

a) Coronavirus – cases, etc.

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

4) Environmental Health

a) Variance Requests

At the last meeting, Leonard Izzo reported there have been variance requests for several projects. Mr. Izzo requests Board of Health approval on these and asked that the requests be added to the agenda of an upcoming BOH meeting.

b) Food Establishments

Vivian Zeng reported that she sent a notice to all food establishments, notifying them of Governor Baker's most recent state-wide face covering order, as well as Wellesley's supplemental order.

Ms. Zeng reported on the new sushi operation at Roche Brothers. She met with the store manager and completed a walk thru of the location. Ms. Zeng reported there is a reduction of the number of meat products that can be purchased.

Ms. Zeng reported that Papa Razzi opened on May 4; they are aware of the new protocols.

Quebrada has started to reduce daily store hours.

The next conference call of the Board of Health is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 2:30 pm.

The Board of Health meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deadra Doku Gardner
Administrator

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

- NONE