

Wellesley Board of Health
CONFERENCE CALL
Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2020
2:30 pm

Present:

Board:

Shepard Cohen, MPA, Chair
Marcia Testa Simonson, MPH, PhD, Vice Chair
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

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

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.

b) Phase I

Leonard Izzo reviewed Phase I of the Massachusetts reopening plan as outlined by Governor Baker at his press conference this afternoon. The state will address summer camps and childcare on the 3:00 pm call (with local departments of health/others) on Tuesday, May 19, 2020.

Mr. Izzo also reviewed topics covered during the Department of Public Health conference call this morning.

No preopening inspections need to be completed by health agents/inspectors. Stores will need to develop their own policies. Nail salons will not be permitted to open until later in Phase I.

c) Town Meeting

Beth Sullivan Woods reported that the Board of Selectmen will be discussing various ways to structure town meeting this spring.

d) CARE funding

Marcia Testa Simonson reported there is approximately \$2.7 million dollars available in the CARE Funding Act available to Wellesley. This funding can be used for anything related to COVID-19.

e) Long term Care Facilities

Elizabeth Seton's Marrillac Residence requested volunteers to assist in their dining room and at their front desk. Health Department staff put out a call to new volunteers, as well as Medical Reserve Corps volunteers, and several responded with their interest. They connected with the Marillac administrator and have begun helping out at the Residence.

f) Budget 2021

Shepard Cohen reported on upcoming budget changes.

Phase I guidelines include mandatory workplace safety standards, as well as sector specific workplace standards and protocols. To adhere to these standards, and for the safety of the staff, the Board of Health (BOH) must seek assistance to expand the current office suite.

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. The BOH will be requesting a third social worker and one additional full-time, benefitted nurse, as well as an increase in nursing per diem hours.

Lenny Izzo and Shep Cohen will be meeting with John Lanza to further discuss the Health Department FY21 Budget. Mr. Izzo will present an estimate to the Advisory Committee on Wednesday, May 20, 2020.

Beth Sullivan Woods reported the Board of Selectmen (BOS) has met with the Advisory Committee. They have focused on cash capital and cuts in revenue. Ms. Sullivan Woods reported that the BOS will present two components of the budget this week; these include estimated reductions and reduced capital. She noted there will be an (expected) 25% reduction in cash capital.

Additional information will be provided at the next meeting.

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

At the last meeting, Beth Sullivan Woods reported that the business community was working with Don and Ann Marie McCauley to apply for a grant from the Community Fund for Wellesley. The grant of \$15,000 was awarded last week. The funding will assist businesses in providing safe workspaces.

Ann Marie McCauley is responsible for determining what the business community needs.

2. Community Health

a) Mental Health

Joyce Saret reported that calls at the Supporting Wellesley care line have plateaued. She reported that Mark Kline from Human Relations Service will be attending the Board of Health meeting on Wednesday, May 27, 2020.

Beth Sullivan Woods reported that fewer calls are going to the Council on Aging as well.

3. Public Health Nursing

a) Coronavirus – cases, etc.

Ann Marie McCauley reported three new cases today.

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

4) Environmental Health

a) Food Establishments

Additional information will be provided at the next meeting.

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 3:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deadra Doku Gardner
Administrator

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

- NONE