

Wellesley Board of Health
Remote Meeting via Zoom

Meeting Minutes.

June 7, 2021

12:00 P.M.

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:

Wanda Alvarez, LSW, Community Social Worker
Jessica Cliff, MHA, Environmental Health Specialist
Deadra Doku Gardner, MS, Administrator
Leonard Izzo, MS, RS, CHO, Director
Cheryl Lefman, MA, Community Health Coordinator
Ann Marie McCauley, RN, Public Health Nurse Supervisor
Joyce Saret, LICSW, Senior Community Social Worker
Vivian Zeng, REHS, RS, CP-FS, Senior Environmental Health Specialist

In attendance:

Shira Doron, MD, resident
John Lanza, Advisory Committee
Beth Sullivan Woods, Select Board
Lloyd Tarlin, MD, former Board of Health member, resident

The meeting was called to order at 12:07 PM.

The meeting minutes of May 17 and May 24, 2021 were approved.

Chairman's Report

Shepard Cohen reported on a recent MAHB meeting. He said that a well-done video was presented honoring local public health. Marcia Testa Simonson reported that on Wednesday there will be a rally at the State House in support of local public health.

Director's Report

Leonard Izzo reported that the Wellesley Public Schools will have an early dismissal today due to the extreme heat. The Superintendent of Schools shared

his early dismissal message with the Department. Mr. Izzo reported that there have been no changes in the DESE guidelines in regards to wearing masks during excessive heat and therefore students are still required to wear masks in their classrooms.

Mr. Izzo reported that the Health Department has been moving away from COVID-19 response and on to regular business. There have been very few complaints from the public regarding COVID issues or requirements. The staff is preparing for a busy summer camp and program season. Staff is reviewing, preparing and finalizing summer camp and program plans.

At the last meeting, Mr. Izzo reported that many town departments were grappling with best practices on return to work. At today's meeting, Mr. Izzo reported that Town Hall had opened with few complaints.

Mr. Izzo will be working with Town government to complete an after-action report about the Town's response to the pandemic.

Mr. Izzo will schedule late summer meetings with Babson and Wellesley Colleges, as well as MassBay Community College.

1. Community Health

a) COVID-19 Update

Ann Marie McCauley reported that there were three positive cases of COVID last week. Two were residents under 12 years old and one was an out-of-town adult. These individuals were not very sick.

Ms. McCauley reported that parents are not getting children tested as they think their symptoms are due to allergies (not COVID). Marcia Testa Simonson reported that the only people testing positive for COVID right now are children under 12. Dr. Shira Doron reported that COVID hospitalizations are decreasing and the number of overall COVID cases have plummeted.

b) COVID Vaccine Update and Housing

Ann Marie McCauley reported on the Wellesley Housing Authority (WHA) community noting that residents she has spoken with are vaccinated. Joyce Saret contacted many WHA households and it was determined that those who wished to receive the vaccination did so.

Dr. Doron reported that according to national polls, 20% of the individuals surveyed reported that they will never get the vaccine. The survey findings noted a rise in cases among teenagers in March and April, however this number has plummeted since the survey was completed.

c) COVID-19 – Wellesley Public Schools (WPS)

The Wellesley Public School Nursing Director Linda Corridan was not present at today's meeting. At the last meeting, Ms. Corridan reported 844 faculty and staff had been vaccinated. She noted that 400 students ages 12 and over were registered for vaccinations at the school-based clinics. The second dose clinic is scheduled for June 15th.

The Board of Health requested that Leonard Izzo follow up with WPS to determine the updated vaccination numbers among the students and staff.

Linda Oliver Grape noted the importance of the Department following up with the public and private schools before school begins in late summer.

d) Human Relations Service (HRS)

The Board of Health voted to approve the FY22 Human Relations Contract (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022).

Dr. Mark Kline (HRS) will be attending the next Board of Health meeting on June 14, 2021.

e) Social Services: Mental Health

Joyce Saret reported that the program on mental health and depression is scheduled for this evening, June 8th, 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Saret reported that she and Wanda Alvarez have been working with individual residents, as well as some town department staff having issues with returning to the office.

2. Environmental Health

a) Mosquito Control

Leonard Izzo reported that the East Middlesex Mosquito Control program is moving forward. This is the third year of the three-year cycle of EEE. Mr. Izzo reviewed risks associated with mosquito borne illness and mitigation measures.

Carol Hannenberg inquired about the members of the Mosquito Control for the Twenty First Century Task Force. Mr. Izzo gave an overview of the members from different boards and agencies across the State and noted he is not on that task force.

b) Morses Pond and Recreation

Leonard Izzo and Vivian Zeng reported on the opening of Morses Pond scheduled for June 8, 2021. There will be no lifeguards on duty this year, only park rangers patrolling. Only Wellesley residents will be permitted access on a reservation basis. Capacity will be capped at 400 residents.

c) Camps and Programing

Vivian Zeng reported on various camp openings, noting that the department is allowing as many camps as possible to open.

d) Microblading

Vivian Zeng reported that she is reviewing the requirements with a new applicant.

3. Administration

a) Human Resources

Leonard Izzo reported that Human Resources is conducting a series of roundtable interviews with department heads in regards to how town employees (and their departments) were able to handle the COVID emergency, and what should be implemented or improved in the future.

b) Remote meetings

Beth Sullivan Woods reported on the State legislation for remote meetings. Linda Oliver Grape noted that the option be made available for boards to go fully remote in the event of an emergency. She noted that it is often impossible for board members to be available in person and the option should be available for members to meet remotely.

c) Advisory

John Lanza reported that the Advisory Committee is likely to ask boards in town to provide a detailed report earlier in the budgeting season. The Committee would like boards to provide a fiscal overview of where they might be in the coming year.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled on June 14, 2021, 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Deadra Doku Gardner
Administrator