



Meeting Minutes #0723.20

MEDFIELD BOARD OF HEALTH

Meeting dated July 23, 2020

Members Present: Carol Read, Stephen Resch, Holly Rand, and Melissa Coughlin, members,

Also Present: Bridget Sweet, Health Agent; Nancy Bennotti, Administrative Assistant; Kristine Trierweiler, Town Administrator; Jeffrey Marsden, School Superintendent.

Meeting was through Zoom teleconferencing.

The Board of Health will meet every week at the request of the Town Administrator to provide update / guidance with regard to the current COVID-19 crisis.

Mrs Read opened the meeting and expressed appreciation to the town administration for its leadership and asked that members introduce themselves and their backgrounds.

The Health Agent gave an update, including: a state hearing regarding facial coverings was posted on the state website; discussion has begun regarding guidance to flu clinics in the fall; Breweries are listed as being open in Phase 4, but with a retail food permit it is possible to open as long as food is being served. Medfield has two breweries who are seeking to obtain a food retail permit, one will offer light snacks and will hold temporary food events with a mobile food truck present. The other is making renovations to the facility to include kitchen food prep and eating areas, etc. Recent inspections have included ice cream trucks, camp applications and programs. Use of plastic bags at retail shops have been the topic of inquiries recently. Temporary use of plastic bags was approved at the beginning of the pandemic as re-usable bags were not allowed in retail locations. The health agent asked the Board to consider a date when retail locations will have to discontinue their use of plastic bags. After discussion, Dr Resch made a motion to suspend plastic bag ban until October 31, 2020, Mrs. Coughlin seconded the motion, roll call vote was 4-0 unanimous, motion carried.

Mrs. Trierweiler set forth details of upcoming primary and presidential elections. Absentee ballot, early voting and election day voting will be available to residents. Early voting will be at town hall using guidance available.

Mrs. Trierweiler shared that the Zelus Beer Taproom operated a successful event at the park at Meetinghouse Pond last weekend. Zelus Beer taproom has permission from the Board of Selectmen to use this location every Saturday until October 3rd.

COA programs have started to return using social distancing, outside location and small groups. Mrs. Trierweiler extended kudos to the director, Roberta Lynch, for providing picnic luncheons using a DJ to the participants.

The facilities director and the librarian are working on opening the library by the end of August. At the town hall plexi-glass has been installed which allows for reopening planning to be finalized.

Dr Marsden provided an update regarding school reopening. There are several discussion groups who meet weekly and their goal is to provide three plans for school reopening, (1) an in-person model, (2) a fully remote, and (3) a hybrid model. The overview of each model is to be submitted to the state by July 31st. The School Committee meets on August 6th and will be presented with recommendation and, on August 10th there will be an update and make public their decision.

Dr Marsden is also meeting with different districts in round tables, etc. It appears that the hybrid model is the most favorable. There is mixed messaging from the CDC and state with regard to the issue of distance, 3 feet vs 6 feet. The school is continuing to purchase supplies including: tents, desk dividers, masks and sanitizer. Dr Marsden is also working with HVAC consultants regarding the airflow and fresh air returns; has purchased electrostatic guns and backpack sprayers to provide disinfection. To date, the school department has spent \$97,000.00 for COVID-19 related expenses.

Issues still working on include an estimate for PPE was based on three months, Dr Marsden wants to plan for a longer time period. There is also the issue of wearing masks on bus as well as the process and protocols to be followed for the medical tents at each school and daily attestation of employees. Also noted that there will be no volunteers at the schools this year.

Dr Resch, who is a member of the reopening committee, serving on the District Advisory Committee stated that the ultimate plan for reopening will be voted on by the local school committee unless the Governor orders differently. Issues of discussion include: physical distancing determination, mask breaks, risks to teachers/employees. Dr Marsden reported that feelings and opinions are changing in the past few weeks. Employees who were polled want to come back to school.

Dr Marsden asked what would be the BOH recommendation for physical distancing? DESE recommends staying between 3 and 6 feet and encourages schools to work with local Boards of Health. The CDC recommendation is 6 feet while the School Physician is less comfortable with 3 feet and is leaning towards 6 feet indoors.

circumstances. All Board members agreed to meet on July 27th to discuss the physical distance recommendation request made by Dr Marsden.

Dr Marsden will forward guidance to members for their review, Mrs. Coughlin will forward information regarding an attestation application which she uses at her place of employment; as well as mask information which would be appropriate for posting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 27, 2020 at 730 pm by Zoom teleconferencing in order to discuss the physical distance recommendation for school re-opening.

Miscellaneous

Mrs Rand made a motion to allow Ms. Read to sign the current pending permits: 3 animal permits, 2 mobile food units, 1 Food Retail.

Mrs Coughlin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:46 pm, Mrs Rand provided second and vote was by roll call, 4-0 unanimous, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

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September 2, 2020