

**Town of Mansfield**  
**Board of Health**  
**April 9, 2020 Minutes**

RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERKS OFFICE  
2020 JUN -2 P 3: 11

MANSFIELD  
MASSACHUSETTS

Mission Statement: The mission of the Mansfield Board of Health is to protect, preserve and improve the public health, environment and wellbeing of our citizens through the enforcement of federal, state and local statutes and regulations, education and promotion of sanitary living and working conditions, and protection of the environment from disease and pollution.

**Present:** Antonia Blinn; Chair, Kasia Frenette; Clerk, Michael Healey, Leah Gillespie, Graham Wilson, Amy Donovan-Palmer; Health Agent, Christopher George; Recorder.

**Guests:** Justin Desrosiers; Fire Chief,

**I. Meeting Called to Order**

The meeting of the Board of Health was called to order at 7:00pm by Chair Antonia Blinn.

Ms. Blinn reads the statement, "Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 31, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Mansfield Board of Health is being conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with the right or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the Town of Mansfield's website at Mansfieldma.com."

**II. Grant Emergency Authority to Fire Chief and Health Agent**

Ms. Blinn says during COVID-19 State of Emergency Governor Baker has issued several orders that require enforcement by the local Board of Health or their Agents. She provides examples in maintaining operation of COVID-19 essential services and workforces, temporary closings of businesses and organizations, and limiting the size of gatherings. She says pursuant to G.L. c. 111, §3 allows for enforcement by these agents. She says the Health Agent and the Fire Chief have worked very closely with the Community EMS and Nursing program. She says appointing Fire Chief Desrosiers as an agent of the Board of Health would strengthen their response.

**\*Motion to grant emergency authority to Fire Chief Desrosiers and Health Agent Amy Donovan-Palmer until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020, made by Mr. Healey, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Frenette. VOTE 5-0 PASSED**

**III. Review of COVID-19 Response**

Ms. Donovan-Palmer says a lot of her job is staying up to date with everything Coronavirus in terms of policy, politics, science, and trends. She says there are 4 DPH organized conference calls during the week along with at least 1 Governor Addresses a week. She says the Town has meetings to stay up to date. She says there are a lot of resident questions mostly around social services and the State's interpretation of that. She says there are a lot of questions surrounding quarantine, self-isolation and what steps essential services should be taking. She says she has been directly assisting these businesses and are working to keep those businesses up

to date.

Ms. Donovan-Palmer says the department has been updating the website a lot to educate the public as much as possible. She says they put out a PSA about social distancing with all the different Town employees. She says they've done a lot of work emphasizing the importance of social distancing with teenagers and informing residents about restrictions with parks and fields.

Ms. Donovan-Palmer says Mr. George has been handling the day to day items. She says this is the first meeting to be broadcast live on Mansfield Cable Access and Mr. George has spent a lot of time getting everything ready to go with MIS and Mansfield Cable.

Ms. Blinn thanks Ms. Donovan-Palmer for all of her work as she knows it can be difficult working remotely and still traveling to Mansfield at the same time. She says Mr. George has been really flexible and they appreciate all the support to Public Health and with keeping the website up to date.

#### IV. Case Contact Tracing Procedure

Ms. Blinn thanks Chief Desrosiers for becoming an Agent of the Board of Health and they appreciate all the work he's been doing with the Pandemic.

Chief Desrosiers briefly outlines the Case Tracing procedure. He says when people get tested, that when the results come in, 90% of the time they will receive a phone call before the Mansfield Fire Department finds out due to an update lag time with the MAVEN database. He says when a resident receives that call that they're positive and given a brief description of self-isolation. He says it will show in MAVEN after about 8 hours and they'll call the resident and give them the isolation instructions and then investigate any contacts they may have had. He says the first contact is anybody that had close contact with them from the time they're symptomatic, but as things have evolved with understanding the virus, they have moved to 48 hours prior to being symptomatic. He says the people that test positive, before they're cleared from isolation, need to have 3 days without a fever, with their symptoms improving, without using Tylenol. He says it has to be at least 7 days from the start of their illness and at that point they can clear. He says if you're a contact for a person who is positive, then you must quarantine for 14 days. He says that they're saying the average is 4-10 days for symptoms to come on. He says they then notify the contacts or the contacts go through MAVEN if it's outside of Mansfield and that Board of Health will notify them.

Chief Desrosiers says there are unique situations like nursing facilities and group homes. He says the state appoints an epidemiologist to them for this because it's considered a cluster. He says the epidemiologist works with them and the director of the facilities to answer questions and how to protect the employees. He says this has been going on for the past two weeks and Ms. Donovan-Palmer has been a big help with that.

Chief Desrosiers says in the beginning it was busy but manageable. He says he worked with Christine Dooling to obtain nurses to assist with case contacting, phone calls, or anything else he needs them to do. He says they've been really great. He says Ms. Dooling has been certified in MAVEN now to assist with the data. He fields for questions.

Ms. Blinn asks what the numbers look like in Mansfield. Chief Desrosiers says there have been a total of 40 people tested with 9 recovered which leaves 33 that are unrecovered with approximately a total number of 46 people in quarantine or isolation.

Mr. Healey asks how many people have been tested. Chief Desrosiers says they don't get those actual numbers. He says he can look up by specific names but there is no easy way to pull the negative test results within MAVEN. He says MAVEN wasn't designed for a pandemic so they've been updating it to add new reports.

Ms. Blinn asks if Chief Desrosiers could describe what to do if a person has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Chief Desrosiers says the biggest thing is to monitor for symptoms and that the state is not recommending people get tested if they don't have symptoms because it could give you a false hope. He says if you get a test without symptoms tonight and it's negative, then you could get a test tomorrow and have it positive. He says the first thing they recommend is to check your temperature frequently and to watch for symptoms or temperature spikes. He says if this happens to call the Mansfield Fire Department and their doctor if they have any symptoms. He says at first there were really limited testing sites but that is no longer an issue. He says they email specific instructions to the person. He says, in quarantine, you can be in the same house with people if you observe social distancing.

Mr. Wilson asks what the process in place is to ensure people are following quarantine orders. Chief Desrosiers says the only way they can do that is to talk to them. He says they try to talk to everyone on their list every day or every other day and he believes most people are staying home. He says most of the ambulance calls have to do with the COVID-19 virus and believes that these calls are down because people are staying at home.

Ms. Gillespie asks if they're still seeing a wide variety of symptoms from people who've tested positive or, for example, never had a fever. Chief Desrosiers says it's completely all over the place. He says most of the younger people, under the age of 30, have milder symptoms. He says once you're over the age of 60 they've seen some really difficult cases. He says some people never had a fever just a really bad cough for a week. He says the most consistent ones are the loss of taste and smell and headache.

Mr. Healey asks about local hospitals and how they're handling patient flow. Chief Desrosiers says the problem with the hospitals is the ICU beds and ventilators. He says they're not at the point of New York but all the hospitals are stressed and coming up with plans. He says it's a challenge to staff because not all nurses are ICU nurses.

Ms. Blinn says as more rapid testing, with the one opening at Gillette this week, becomes available she asks if the Mansfield Fire Department has any colleagues who've seen how that's working. Chief Desrosiers says the site at Gillette specifically is regimented and down. He says its drive up with your ID and they check if you have an appointment. He says if you don't then they'll have you pull over where you can actually call and make an appointment. He says you drive under the tent for the procedure, they verify your name and phone number, and then you can drive out. He says their goal is to do 200 a day. He says they've had a few people tested at the Fire Department and they've all tested negative so far. Chief Desrosiers says they've put into place the same processes you would for quarantine just to make the Fire Department employees feel safe which includes twice a day temperature screening. He says the regional dispatch center has been great with the additional questions to ask. Ms. Blinn thanks the Mansfield Fire Department for the efforts and to the School Nurses for stepping up to help.

## V. Revisit Date for Food Regulations Implementation

Ms. Blinn says they've worked hard for these regulations and the hearings for a May 1<sup>st</sup> implantation date but given the situation that doesn't seem feasible. She wants to put on the table the opportunity to delay the implantation to October 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Healey says this is a thoughtful thing to do.

**\*Motion to delay the implementation of the Food regulation to October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, made by Mr. Healey, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Gillespie. VOTE 5-0 Passed**

## VI. Household Hazardous Waste

Ms. Donovan-Palmer says it's scheduled for May 2, 2020 and is contracted with Clean Harbors. She says, as of right now, it's considered an essential service and is not effected by the Governors orders. She says she's been in contact with Clean Harbors and they are still moving forward with Household Hazardous Waste days. She says they have an in-vehicle process in place and she's spoken to the Town Manager who has agreed to move forward with the May 2, 2020 date at the Xfinity Center.

Ms. Blinn says all participants should still follow CDC guidelines and recommends they wear masks.

Ms. Frenette asks for the times and locations. Ms. Donovan-Palmer says it will be held at the Xfinity Center from 8am to 12pm on May 2, 2020. She says Chris will start messaging at the beginning of next week but doesn't want to diminish what's happening with pandemic messaging.

## VII. Resources for Residents

Ms. Donovan-Palmer says they built a Coronavirus Information webpage back in January and at that time it was a small page. She says it's grown since then and has almost anything a resident may need to know including links to government websites, links to the MBTA, and other helpful information. She says if any residents have any information to let us know so we can add it. She says there are helpful numbers for those looking for Mental Health services for those looking for help during the Pandemic. Ms. Blinn encourages those watching to sign up for alerts through the Town's Website.

Mr. Healey asks what kind of activity we can determine on the website. Ms. Donovan-Palmer asks if he's referring to clicks to the website and says they don't have that specific data right now but asks Mr. George if there's any information on that. Mr. George says that there are currently around 300 people signed up for Public Health News Flash Alerts and about 250 people who get Public Health Civic Alerts.

## VIII. Submitted Resident Questions and Comments

Ms. Blinn says they provided the opportunity for questions and comments to be submitted up until 5:00pm today and asks if there are any submissions. Mr. Blinn says she did receive one in regards to compost and the large items facility. She says that, as she understands it, in order for the Town to have the compost and large items facility open they need to have a staff person on site and currently it's not safe to do so.

Ms. Donovan-Palmer says there was another question with the recycling center being closed down how do residents dispose of large or bulky items like appliances and you can find that information on the Town's website on the DPW's trash and recycling page where it details how to contact someone at the DPW for an

item disposal sticker. She says there is also a new FAQ about Town business that is live on the Town's website. She says she'll also respond to these inquires directly through email in case they're not watching.

**IX. Items not known 48 hours prior**

Ms. Donovan-Palmer says she's been doing updates at the Select Board meeting.

**X. Adjournment**

\*Motion to adjourn at 7:44pm made by Mr. Healey 2<sup>nd</sup> made by Ms. Frenette. Vote 5-0 PASSED

Kasia Frenette  
Clerk

June 2, 2020  
Date