

Town of Mansfield
Board of Health
May 7, 2020 Minutes

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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 6:30pm 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. Acceptance of Minutes

February 6, 2020

*Motion to accept the minutes from February 6, 2020, made by Mr. Healey, 2nd by Mr. Wilson.
Vote: 5-0 PASSED

March 5, 2020

*Motion to accept the minutes from March 5, 2020, made by Mr. Healey, 2nd by Mr. Wilson.
Vote: 5-0 PASSED

III. COVID-19 Updates

Ms. Blinn thanks the staff in the Health Department for the long hours and work during the pandemic.

Contact tracing with Community EMS

Chief Desrosiers says the numbers up date as of this afternoon; there are 21 currently positive, 26 under isolation, and 101 recovered with a total of 122 positives since the beginning. He says there's been 12 COVID related deaths as of today.

Chief Desrosiers says, as of the first of the month, the State has taken over Contact Tracing through the CTC.

He says it's pretty seamless but the only downside is you lose a bit of control. He says you won't see any updates in MAVEN until their done. He says he won't see progression or recoveries until they close out that file. He says the nurses are still assisting and have been a huge help.

Ms. Blinn asks if the CTC is taking on follow up actions or if the school nurses are still doing that piece. Chief Desrosiers says for any new cases the CTC is taking it on except if it's a high risk case or a case within assisted living or group home. He says they'll run the whole case until it's clear and they'll get notice in MAVEN that it's completed.

Mr. Healey asks if the contact tracing allows for more people to be tested even if they don't have symptoms. Chief Desrosiers says it's still a case by case basis. He says for first responders and essential employees are still receiving free testing at Gillette but for private citizens they need to talk to their doctor first. He says providers do have the ability to do a clinical diagnosis if, for example, your wife had been tested positive and you're exhibiting symptoms.

Ms. Donovan-Palmer asks if there's a diagnosis without a test does that person get entered into MAVEN. Chief Desrosiers says only if they know about it because of their significant other. Ms. Donovan-Palmer verifies that the doctor themselves doesn't put it into MAVEN. Chief Desrosiers says not that he's seen and in an ideal world they would but he hasn't seen it. Ms. Blinn says she doesn't believe providers have access to MAVEN.

Ms. Blinn asks if the majority of ambulance runs are associated with COVID-19. Chief Desrosiers says that remains the same. He says runs overall are down but the majority of runs are related to COVID-19.

Health Dept Work

Ms. Donovan-Palmer says most of the daily tasks are answering phone calls, providing understanding and delivering clear messaging to the public. She says this is especially important with the Governors Orders for masks. She says the majority of it is talking to the public and they've been working more with social media; including daily updates. She says since May is Mental Health Awareness Month she's focused her messaging on Mental Health at the end of every daily update.

Ms. Donovan-Palmer asks the Board if they're signed up for the alerts and says to the public that the website has a lot of great resources for people during this time for those who may need additional assistance since everyone is going through the pandemic differently.

IV. BOH Survey requiring face coverings

Ms. Donovan-Palmer says when they were putting together the agenda they were planning on doing their own mask order. She says Chris and her performed a survey with all local food establishments to see how it would affect them directly. She says a majority of them said most customers are already wearing masks. She says the question she asked is, "do you think this would affect you negatively?" and people said, "No". She says the Governor's new policy for face masks is now in order and that has taken care of it.

Ms. Donovan-Palmer says the Governor's Orders say any person over the age of 2 needs to wear a mask. She says anyone unable to or does not maintain a distance of approximately 6 feet from every other person, indoors or outdoors, needs to wear a mask. She says everyone should have a mask available to put on because the orders do say you need a mask at all times inside grocery stores, pharmacies, and other retail stores and when providing or using the services of any taxi, car, livery, ride-sharing, or mass public transit.

Ms. Donovan-Palmer says all of this information is available on their website and provides information on proper mask use and information on the exceptions to the rule. She says all of this information is included in today's daily update.

Ms. Donovan-Palmer says there has been a change in non-essential businesses in this order. Non-essential businesses can now bring a small number of employees in order to remotely fulfill online or phone orders while following remote fulfillment guidelines. She also says car dealerships can be operated in a limited manner.

Ms. Donovan-Palmer says some things haven't changed. She says curbside is still prohibit if you're non-essential. She says non-essential businesses cannot allow employees into the brick and mortar facility for anything that isn't order fulfillment. She says you also cannot manufacture non-essential goods.

Mr. Wilson asks what the enforcement is for the post office. Ms. Donovan-Palmer asks if it's employees or people inside the building. Mr. Wilson says he was dropping off some packages and no employees wear masks. Mr. Healey says it's been hit or miss when he goes to the post office. Mr. Wilson says a lot of what he sees is below the nose or the chin. Ms. Donovan-Palmer says you shouldn't put the inside of your mask under your chin and you should only try and grab it by the strings or ties. Ms. Blinn says to think of a mask like a filter. You don't want to dirty the filter so taking it off properly and washing it is an important piece.

V. Liaison to Select Board

Ms. Blinn says, in their April 15th meeting, they introduced liaisons from the Select Board to all committees to assist in communication. She says this Board hasn't had any challenges with communication with the Select Board but they appreciate another avenue of communication. She says Jess Aptowitz has been assigned as their liaison. She says it's been a very collaborative relationship with the Select Board and Town Manager and the Board of Health. She says she'll outreach on a monthly basis to Mr. Aptowitz.

VI. Local Food Establishment Update

Mr. George says they've been assisting the local food establishments with a variety of assistance ranging from signs to providing research. Ms. Donovan-Palmer says there's a great tab on our website that shows how local businesses are operating and phone numbers. She says that they've had no major issues with any local food establishments during the pandemic.

Mr. Healey asks about any of the SOPS or plans that were offered by establishments at the March and February minutes. Ms. Donovan-Palmer says they will outreach to those establishments.

Mr. Healey asks about the food safety course. He asks if there was any way they could have the course virtually. Ms. Donovan-Palmer says she will check on this.

Ms. Donovan-Palmer says there's state guidance coming out on the 18th and that's what they're waiting for. She says it should provide a path for what benchmarks they need to meet.

VII. FOG Update

Ms. Donovan-Palmer says she has transferred this reporting to Mr. George and he has a small report to provide the Board. Mr. George says he started to track records and provides some basic statistics. He says only about 50% of establishments have provided FOG records for Quarter 1. He says his plan is to start outreaching to these establishments for their records; at which point he'll introduce himself and see if he can assist them in meeting their FOG permit requirements.

Ms. Donovan-Palmer says things change so rapidly from day to day during the pandemic but they'll keep FOG on the agenda to ensure we keep up to date with it.

Mr. Healey asks if they've heard anything from the new restaurant and if they've put an exterior trap in. Ms. Donovan-Palmer says they've not contacted the Health Department at all and she says they've outreached to see plans back in January, during a meeting, and she's heard nothing. She says she's informed the other departments involved of their lack of communication. She says they understand that they need a trap and that they need to provide a plan. Ms. Blinn says they may be taking a break during the pandemic but that doesn't mean they shouldn't communicate.

VIII. Household Hazardous Waste Day

Ms. Donovan-Palmer says it was a huge success. Mr. Healey says he was glad he got there early. Ms. Donovan-Palmer says by 8am they had 50 cars in line. She says there were 79 full carloads, 82 Half carloads, and 108 quarter carloads. She says everyone was very respectful while waiting in line and wearing masks. She says windows were rolled up while she checked IDs. She says they have funding for next year to hold another event.

Mr. Healey says they talked about having Norton with them and wonders if only one setup area would have worked with the amount of cars there. He says Clean Harbors did a nice job.

Ms. Blinn says that's good to know because the pending grant application includes shared services but that's something to consider. Mr. Healey says it's still possible with double the setups. He says maybe one dumpster but two setups. Ms. Donovan-Palmer says that 30ft roll-off dumpster was full by the end of the event. Ms. Donovan-Palmer says, if they partner with another Town, they could do one in the spring and one in the fall.

Mr. Healey says he works with the Council of Aging to help out some homes and they left a lot of buckets of latex paint behind. He suggests the Board of Health provide the solidifier for latex paint and that they used to that some years ago because it can go right in the trash with a solidifier. He says no matter how much they advertise latex paint isn't hazardous waste that people still bring them. He says another alternative would be to have the Mansfield Green create a system to place it into the trash so people can bring it down; even for a small fee.

IX. Department Updates

Current status of permitting for seasonal non-essential services

Ms. Donovan-Palmer says normally they'd be in the middle of permitting pools and camps but, due to the pandemic, she had Mr. George email all permit holders that we're waiting for guidance. She says they should receive word about recreational day camps sometime next week.

Summer internship cancelled

Ms. Donovan-Palmer says the summer internship program has been cancelled for this year and it's very disappointing because Salooni was such a large help last year.

Ms. Blinn says there is opportunity to request assistance from the DPH volunteer corp. She said it was started a little over a year ago but the COVID Command Center asked them to help local public health. She says for the last month they've helped 89 local Boards of Health. She says there are about 600-700 volunteers in the pipeline to join this volunteer corp. Ms. Blinn says she'll connect Ms. Donovan-Palmer with a resource to assist the Health Department. Ms. Donovan-Palmer says she'll definitely look into that.

X. Visitor Comments

No visitors or pre-submitted questions or comments.

XII. Items not known 48 hours prior

Ms. Blinn says she'd like Ms. Donovan-Palmer to talk about regulation enforcement since at the last meeting they voted to grant emergency authority to the Health Agent and the Fire Chief. She says it's become apparent to expand that to include the sworn officers, supervisors, and commanders of the Mansfield Police Department as Agents. Ms. Donovan-Palmer says that within the Governors Orders it states the Board of Health are enforcers with the assistance of municipal police if requested. She says this is a formal way for them to request assistance and that she had a great conversation with Deputy Chief Ellsworth and Police Chief Sellon today about the need for this and how the collaboration will work together to enforce this. She says they'll start off with a letter and sign they can post on their doors about the mask requirement. She says it's a good way for them to go to these local establishments to help people understand how we're all working together on this. Ms. Blinn asks the Board to make a motion to make this extension.

Mr. Healey says he views this as a positive for the store owners so they're not the ones who need to enforce mask wearing within their stores. He says some people may need help with the language of this and that they'll need assistance. He asks if they can provide language to these stores.

***Motion to grant sworn officers, supervisors, and commanders of the Mansfield Police Department as Agents of the Board of Health until which time the emergency order has been lifted by the Governor made by Mr. Healey, 2nd by Ms. Frenette. ROLL CALL VOTE 5-0 PASSED.**

Ms. Donovan-Palmer says they've been provided grant funding towards Tobacco Control and they'll be able to be paid for through this grant for work towards vaping and tobacco control.

Ms. Blinn says they mentioned the posting of signage and they need to make a motion to require businesses to post the signage that accompanies the letters. She says the plan is to provide the letters in person. Ms. Donovan-Palmer says most establishments already have signs up but they'll be provided with the letter when

the Police Officers deliver them; since they know most retailers in Town.

***Motion to require any applicable business open to the public to post appropriate signage where masks or face coverings must be worn as stated by Governor Baker's Order requiring face coverings in public places where social distancing is not possible; appropriate signage must be no smaller than 8.5x11 inches and must be clearly visible on all doors and any point of entry into the facility stating that the use of a mask or face covering is required to enter the facility and must be worn at all times while in the facility made by Mr. Healey, 2nd by Ms. Frenette. ROLL CALL VOTE 5-0 PASSED**

Mr. Healey asks for a PFAS update at the next meeting and asks about the status of the new tobacco regulations. Ms. Donovan-Palmer says they're communicating with tobacco permit holders and inspections will resume as soon as it's safe to do so.

XIII. Adjournment

***Motion to adjourn at 7:37pm made by Mr. Healey 2nd made by Ms. Gillespie. ROLL CALL VOTE 5-0 PASSED**

Kasia Frenette

Clerk

9/10/2020

Date