

Town of Mansfield
Board of Health
June 1, 2020 Minutes

RECEIVED
TOWN OFFICE
JUN 12 2020 9 27
MANSFIELD

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, Lauren Morley, Lisa Morley, Tony Sacchetti, Michael Rae, Joseph Pereira,

I. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting of the Board of Health was called to order at 6:00pm 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. Acceptance of Minutes

April 9, 2020, Minutes

***Motion to approve the Minutes from April 9, 2020, made by Mr. Healey, 2nd by Ms. Frenette.
VOTE 5-0 Passed**

III. COVID-19 Updates

Current Testing

Chief Desrosiers says the total persons positive in Mansfield, since the beginning, is 158, the total persons positive and under isolation in Mansfield is 17, that leaves 128 persons recovered and 13 people deceased. He says the first person to test positive was on March 13. He says there were 28 positive cases in March, there were 89 positive cases in April, 40 positive cases in May, and 1 positive case in June. He says the peak in Mansfield was April 17. He says average age was 56 with the youngest positive case being 6-months old and the oldest positive case was 100 years old. He says the average age of deaths is 82.

Chief Desrosiers says the CTC took over Contact Tracing in May. Ms. Blinn asks how this has been working; as she knows there have been some communication issues between local Boards of Health and the CTC. Chief Desrosiers says it's been good and they have team leaders now who can help you get any information you

need. Ms. Blinn asks if the school nurses are still actively involved like they were before. Chief Desrosiers says the school nurses phased out about 3 weeks ago to focus on their primary job. He says he met with the Town Manager this morning and there are funds available for COVID related items. He says he and Amy spoke about hiring a part-time person to just handle COVID stuff. He says they're investigating that right now.

Phase 1 re-entry

Ms. Donovan-Palmer reviews a Re-Opening Presentation. She highlights the indicators of the re-opening plan and states that the re-opening plan is data driven rather than date driven. She says that general social guidance, such as covering your mouth and nose with a cloth mask, washing your hands, and socially distancing will remain in effect for the next 6-months to a year. She says that business guidance includes mandatory workplace safety standards and sector-specific protocols and best practices. She says the State has been very clear as to what sector-specific safety standards need to be met in order to reopen.

Ms. Donovan-Palmer says that May 18 was the start of the Safer-At-Home advisory. She says not much has changed and she understands that people are starting to go out but it's still recommended that people stay at home whenever possible. She says that even though businesses are starting to reopen that doesn't mean it's a free for all for everyone to go out and have large parties.

Ms. Donovan-Palmer reviews the Mandatory Safety Standards for reopening. She says the four categories are social distancing, hygiene protocols, staffing and operations, and cleaning and disinfecting. She says this plan will be used by Town Hall to set a good example for the rest of the community and to ensure Town employees are working in a safe environment.

Ms. Donovan-Palmer says the State is getting close to Phase 2. She says each phase will last no less than 3 weeks. She reviews the businesses allowed to open during each phase and that each sector has its own checklist. Ms. Donovan-Palmer advises anyone who'd like more information on Massachusetts's Reopening to visit www.mass.gov/reopening.

Athletic Fields

Ms. Donovan-Palmer says the fields are open for walking, running, and biking but the Town cannot permit anyone for group activities or sports. She says no permits will be issued for group activities and persons should not participate in pick-up games, organized games, or tournaments.

Daily Updates and Website information

Ms. Donovan-Palmer asks if everyone is signed up for the alerts from the webpage. She says the website has been a great tool for messaging. She says Mr. George has done a great job of archiving the updates. She says the Health Department has been diligent on making sure the information on the website is up to date.

Mr. Healey asks if we've started inspecting pools yet. Ms. Donovan-Palmer says no, because they're not until Phase 2. She says guidance should be coming soon.

Ms. Gillespie asks about daycares. Ms. Donovan-Palmer says some guidance has been released. She says the Governor did say June 29th as an opening date for daycare about a month ago but they can't go by the date.

Ms. Donovan-Palmer says she's already sent the camp guidance to all previous permit holders. She says it's a positive step forward for the kids and the camps.

Ms. Blinn compliments Ms. Donovan-Palmer and Mr. George for doing the daily website updates. She says

there's a constant stream of information and it's helpful for people to go to the webpage and to be able to receive the alerts directly when new information is posted.

IV. Liaison to Select Board

Ms. Blinn says since April she's had communications with the Select Board liaison, Jess Aptowitz, Ms. Donovan-Palmer and Chief Desrosiers will be attending the upcoming Select Board meeting and she thanks them for their continued collaboration on the Board of Health's behalf.

V. Endorsement on Girl Scout Gold Award Project

Ms. Morley introduces herself as a freshman at Mansfield High School and a local Girl Scout. She's working towards her Gold Award; the highest award of the Girl Scouts. She says for her silver project she worked to spread awareness of the problems with plastic straw uses. She says for her gold award she'd like to get a law passed in Mansfield. She says this isn't a ban but rather changes the way straws are provided. She says normally when you receive a cup it automatically comes with a straw and she'd like to change that so people ask for a straw. She provides a visual presentation. Ms. Morley asks if anyone has any questions.

Ms. Blinn asks if she's had an opportunity to talk to any of the local businesses about this. Ms. Morley says she's talked to a couple and some were excited about this. She says Deco's gave up all plastic straws and are switching to paper when their current supply is out. She says the main concern from other businesses was cost. She says her petition will actually save them money.

Mr. Healey asks if a company switches to paper, then does this by-law still apply to them. Ms. Morley says if a company chooses to switch to paper straws, stirrers, or another form that isn't plastic, then they can distribute the straws however they'd like.

Mr. Healey asks if she's come up with any ideas to assist the restaurants on how to communicate this change to their customers. Ms. Morley says she has made a couple laminated signs and it can be an easy fix to inform customers with signs or a statement on their menus. She says drive-thrus will be the hardest aspect but if they have a sign that should help inform customers.

Ms. Blinn states that there's a lot for the Health Department to enforce. She asks what she anticipates the Health Agent's need will be for enforcement. Ms. Morley says she's spoken with the Health Agent and they've decided the first offense would be a written warning, the second offence would be a \$50 fine, and the third and subsequent offenses would be \$100.

Ms. Frenette asks if there are any other states or towns that have this type of plan in place for straws. Ms. Morley says Massachusetts, as a State, is trying to get some sort of law passed that is either a reduction or a ban. She says she based her petition off of the City of Chelmsford.

Mr. Healey says he hopes they'll be a 6 month period of education and to reinforce the idea with local establishments.

Ms. Blinn asks if, as a part of her Gold Award, she will be taking part in the education of local establishments. Ms. Morley says she has already begun education. She says she has a Facebook page with over 2,000 Mansfield residents who follow it. She says she has spoken to the schools, and they have supported her, but they'll be exempt from this. She says the Schools are going to try and do something on their own. She says

she's had tables set up at the Relay for Life, Family Fun Night, and Craft Fairs to try and get the word out.

Mr. Healey asks why they would exempt the schools. Ms. Morley says the schools are exempt because taxes don't pay for food and food resources and only the money made from food can go towards that. She says the High School doesn't have straws easily accessible and you need to ask for one. She says they're trying to do the same thing at the Middle School and if anyone has a need they can ask a lunch worker. She says, another concern at the schools, is that some of the kids at Jordan/Jackson are still too young that it would be hard for them to drink without a straw. She says the Elementary Schools use premade packets that contain utensils and straws.

Ms. Blinn asks if Ms. Donovan-Palmer recommends this and asks if she has any concerns. Ms. Donovan-Palmer says she thinks it's a great idea and that Ms. Morley had come to her in January and explained all the hard work and education she has already provided. She says she understands the drive-thrus may be a little difficult. She says that enforcement will be minimal and agrees that education will be important.

***Motion that the Board of Health supports the By-Law to restrict the plastic straw for restaurants within Mansfield made by Mr. Healey. 2nd by Ms. Frenette. ROLL CALL VOTE 5-0 Passed**

IX. Department Updates

Tobacco Compliance Check and Funding

Ms. Donovan-Palmer says the new tobacco laws and Mansfield's Regulations started today. She says all mint, menthol, and flavored tobacco must be out of local convenience store; as they're only for sale in adult only stores. She says the Health Department has received State funding for the tobacco control program. She says Mr. George will make calls this week to follow up with stores. She says she's had no issues with any vendors in Mansfield.

EEE

Ms. Donovan-Palmer says they're getting ready for EEE. She says outbreaks usually come in 2-3 year waves and they're expecting this year to be bad. She says they put an alert out last week that people can sign up for the Bristol County Mosquito Control Program. She says the DPH EEE communication toolkit should be coming out soon. She says they don't start sampling until the end of June.

Return to Office Plan

Ms. Donovan-Palmer says she is in the office full time now and Mr. George will start next week. She says they're ready to go. She says Town Hall will still be closed to outside people and if people need to drop of plans then we meet them at the door.

Social Media

Mr. George says they started the social media plan and thus far the response has been very positive. He says Mr. Healey has been providing him good information and articles. He says Ms. Frenette has offered the same and says he appreciates any and all information people can send him because it gives him more to build posts from. He asks if members of the Board would be willing to share these posts to the wider community Facebook posts. Ms. Frenette says she's willing to do this.

FOG

Mr. George says he's outreached for Quarter 1 records but, given the pandemic, it's been difficult to obtain them. He says he has a good feeling that he'll receive Quarter 1 records when he outreaches for Quarter 2

records.

Mr. Healey asks if anyone has responded that they haven't been able to pump because pumpers wouldn't come or because the business is closed. Mr. George says no and it's more about trying to make a connection with the right person to obtain them. He says some businesses are really good at providing us a picture of their log with their cell phone but the biggest issue is the larger corporations due to furloughed employees. He says the people he's connecting with are stand-in managers or employees from other locations.

Mr. George says he'll start outreach for Quarter 2 on June 29th.

X. Visitor Comments

Mr. Sacchetti asks if Mansfield is planning to adhere to the State guidance on fields or if the Board of Health will have additional guidance. Ms. Donovan-Palmer says she doesn't anticipate any additional requirements but will bring this to the attention of Parks and Recreation and the Town Manager's Department. Mr. Sacchetti asks if it's the same for the Conservation Commission since they have some ownership over some of the baseball fields. Ms. Donovan-Palmer says she'll check in with the Conservation Agent and asks Mr. Sacchetti to send us an email at Health@mansfieldma.com.

Mr. George says there was one question submitted digitally and the person is not currently in the meeting. He says the question is "Will there be any guidance ahead of time for sports so that organizations can plan". Ms. Donovan-Palmer says they're still waiting for guidance from the State and it should come out in writing soon.

XII. Items not known 48 hours prior

Trash Taskforce Update

Mr. Wilson says he spoke with the Taskforce about regulations that may come to the Board of Health. He says the Trash Taskforce job is to provide recommendations. He says the Town gets scored by the State on a Recycling Dividends Program which is based on your Town's trash and recycling program. He says these scores correlate to funding. He says the Taskforce has asked the Board to look into requiring recycling from all trash haulers in Town. He offers to send the workbook to Ms. Donovan-Palmer. He says the focus is to require trash haulers to provide both trash and recycling services. He says the deadline for this year is June 10, which they can't make this year, but it makes sense for the Board to look into this.

Ms. Donovan-Palmer says she's outreached to the DPH for a volunteer that could help out with this. She says she'd like to start an educational program surrounding household hazardous waste products but she hasn't heard back from the DPH on this yet.

Mr. Wilson says the Taskforce asked about private hauler dumpsters and if they're required to have lids on them. He says they wanted to know if we have regulations that can enforce that. Ms. Donovan-Palmer says there are trash container regulations and they do dictate the size of the container. She asks if Mr. Wilson can follow up with any of the companies discussed. Mr. Wilson says he's going to drive around and take a look to see if it's a frequency of pickup issue or old corroded dumpsters.

Mr. Healey asks for Ms. Blinn to check with the Select Board liaison about this to see if they want the Board of Health to take this on. He says the Select Board is usually the Board to be charged with the trash hauler contracts and he'd like to check with the Select Board to see if the Board of Health will be taking this on.

XIII. Adjournment

*Motion to adjourn at 7:07pm made by Mr. Healey 2nd made by Mr. Wilson. ROLL CALL VOTE
5-0 PASSED

Kasia Frenette

Clerk

9/10/2020

Date