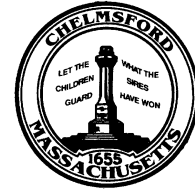




**Chelmsford Board of Health
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Town of Chelmsford
50 Billerica Road
Chelmsford, MA 01824
Zoom - 6:15 p.m., Monday October 5, 2020**



RECEIVED
2020-11-05
9:09 AM
TOWN OF CHELMSFORD
PATRICIA E. DZURIS
TOWN CLERK

Attending:

Board Members: Annmarie Roark
Eric Meikle, MD
Richard Day

Staff: Susan Rosa, Public Health Director
Michele Grant, Health Inspector
Donna Greenwood, Department Assistant

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:17 pm
Zoom Session – School Committee Meeting Room

Approval of Minutes

Upon Motion made by Annmarie Roark to accept minutes, seconded by Richard Day, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the Board of Health Meeting for October 5, 2020 with the change under Old Business paragraph 6 to add the word “waste” before water treatment plant.

Incoming Correspondence:

Discussion on animal bites, question regarding anyone giving out wrong information, we have not had this issue. Animal Control officer did confirm the dog that did bite the other dog was in fact negative for rabies.

Upon Motion made by Annmarie Roark to accept Incoming Correspondence, seconded by Richard Day it was voted unanimously to approve Incoming Correspondence.

Old Business:

Covid-19 Update: Cases are increasing.
As of today, 462 confirmed cases, 42 probable, total 504.
46 Deaths, held at 44 for quite a bit.
36 Active cases

Confirmed cases in Schools: Harrington – 1; CHS -3; South Row – 1 student teacher.

We had 33 complaints in September related to Covid. We are in the yellow on MASS DPH chart. Each community receives a color, yellow is 4-8 daily positives per 100,000 population.
The Chelmsford Schools have started; 2 cohorts (Mon-Tues) and (Thursday-Friday). All remote on Wednesday’s. In school ½ day and all remote in the afternoons.

Governor Baker announced that effective today if a community is in the green or yellow businesses could graduate to Phase 3 Step 2. This increases indoor dining from a party of 6 together to a party of 10 together. It would allow the restaurant bar to have extended seating, but not across the counters.

It would extend outdoor seating to a further timeline in the season. If a community goes in the red for 3 consecutive weeks then the community/businesses roll back Phase 3 Step 1.

Lowell General numbers were single digits all last month then 2 weeks in the teens, but staying in the teens. The number on ventilators being utilized are far down from the spring. They have now changed approach on therapy, earlier in the course of covid treatment. The ER experience is that the spread is more community not clusters. We are having the same experience in Chelmsford. The state as a whole is down to about .9% positivity amongst tests.

Reviewed Chelmsford Schools and Chelmsford Board of Health procedures for notifying parents and staff of isolation and quarantine dates if there is a confirmed case. Everyone is following the policies and procedures; there has not been any staff members at the schools that have tested positive.

Discussion on restaurants putting up large tents and how it differs from the inside guidelines. When the sides to the tents are down it is the same guidelines as inside the restaurant. It is not by capacity; it is by distance and barriers.

Discussion on the Board of Health following up on complaints. Next month's agenda we need to discuss fees that should be associated with duplicate business complaints.

Discussion on Newport Industries odor complaints: We continue to have complaints on odor. All complaints are sent to the DEP and the Westford Board of Health also sends their complaints to the DEP. In September we had 23 complaints on Odor. The Westford Air Quality Study is completed. The Health director in Westford just received the results. On Oct 19, 2020 GZA will present the results to the Westford Board of Health. We were informed that when Westford initially chose the areas to test, the residents at the time wanted to concentrate on the schools, there aren't any schools really close to Newport Industries. GZA has completed the testing in Chelmsford; the samples were done from September 16 to September 24. Areas: Ledge Road, Scotty Hollow, Lovett Lane, Chelmsford Woods, Chelmsford Commons, New Yorker Ave, Sleeper Lane, Chamberlain Road. The report will be done in 3-4 weeks. Once complete it will be presented to the Select Board. Once we have it, we will post on our website. GZA was given the full folder of all of the complaints that we had received around Newport Industries odors. They were asked specifically to pay very close attention to these areas. The tests were done during the week.

Discussion on Town Meeting Warrant Article 18 & 19. The Select Board is meeting tonight. Article 18 is requesting funding to do a study on waste water capacity in town. Article 19 is to change the verbiage on properties needing to tie into town sewer. The BOH board members are concerned with the language in Article 19 "reasonable" in two areas of this article. It is "squishy" wording. This language will make it impossible to defend against or promote. The end date of the moratorium is October 31, 2021; this is to be able to revisit next year at the town meeting.

Dr. Meikle will log onto the Select Board meeting this evening to present – The Board of Health is opposed to the subjective term "reasonably" used twice and recommends to either remove, define, or to reference subjective criteria elsewhere.

Upon Motion made by Annmarie Roark to accept Old Business, seconded by Richard Day, it was voted unanimously to approve Old Business.

New Business-

Discussion on the Fee Schedule regarding Sewage Disposal and related items. Right after the Moratorium went into effect, BOH received an email request from an engineer who is working with a homeowner who is considering subdividing a piece of property. She wanted to know what the next step in the process would be

with soil and perc testing. This brought to light that we haven't done this in many years and reviewed fees and staff capacity.

We reviewed what was on our books, North Andover's fees, Westford fees (all done by their environmental director) and compared fees of each of these communities. Worked closely with Michele and came up with these recommendations on what fees should be. The second page is the septic construction; we would not be doing these with our health department staff. We received information from Mill River and NE Engineering. We are asking for approval of the recommended fees and the approval of the 2 Consultants fees, with going back to NE Engineering and Mill River and requesting the remainder of the fees.

Upon motion made by Annmarie Roark to accept the recommended fee schedule, seconded by Richard Day, it was voted unanimously to approve the fee schedule.

Upon motion made by Annmarie to approve both consultants with follow up information needed, seconded by Richard Day, it was voted unanimously to approve both consultants.

Upon Motion made by Annmarie Roark to accept New Business, seconded by Richard Day, it was voted unanimously to approve New Business.

OTHER:

Discussion on Monthly Reports: It is remarkable on how much the staff's time is spent on reinforcing Covid guidelines. We have been in this for 8 to 9 months. Our businesses need to take responsibility and ensure all guidelines are followed. Let's revisit next month the consideration of fees on businesses not following the guidelines.

Discussion on funding for additional flu clinics. Discussion on towns Covid grants and request for additional employees. We currently need someone to help do enforcement in the community and another nurse to help follow up with cases.

Discussion on flu clinics that are planned; Senior Center over 65 and our first ever drive thru. Haven't been able to plan school vaccines, waiting for state vaccines in order to do so.

Upon Motion made by Annmarie Roark to accept Other, seconded by Richard day, it was voted unanimously to approve Other.

Public Input:

Jonathan D8 Scotty Hollow, air quality report is due to be available in 3 weeks how would we get a copy. We will post on our Board of Health Website.

Motion to Adjourn:

Upon Motion made to adjourn by Richard Day seconded by Annmarie Roark, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 PM

Next Scheduled Meeting: *Monday, December 7, 2020*

Location - TBD