

MARBLEHEAD BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES, November 15, 2021

Present: Chm. Todd Belfbecker, Helaine Hazlett, Joanne Miller, Andrew Petty, Director

Web-based video conferencing meeting of the Board of Health via Zoom.

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm.

MOTION to approve meeting minutes of October 12th as submitted. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Mrs. Hazlett, in favor; Ms. Miller, in favor; Dr. Belfbecker, in favor.

Andrew reported that as of November 12th there were 17 new cases with a total of 1684 cases of COVID-19 in town since the beginning of the pandemic. The cases per age group are as follows:

2 - 0-11yrs of age
2- 12-19yrs of age
8 – 20-29yrs of age
5 – 30-39yrs of age
8 – 40-49yrs of age
9 – 50-59yrs of age
4 – 60-69yrs of age
3 – 70-79yrs of age
2 – 80yrs+ of age

The average daily incidence rate (last 14 days) is 11.5 and total tests given are 79784.

Andrew reviewed that when someone has a positive PCR test, they must isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms. When someone is a contact, they should check the CDC website, as there are other options than isolating for 14 day, e.g., getting tested on day 5, and if negative, returning on day 8. The health department gets many phone calls with the same questions and these can easily be answered on the CDC website.

Helaine updated the Board on the SALT (Superintendent's Advisory Leadership Team) past meetings. Deanna McMahon, nurse leader for Marblehead Public Schools stated the nurses are working very hard and are looking to hire more nurses. All of the schools have been doing well even with the transient outbreak at the Village School. Some teachers have had difficulty with some students not wearing masks. These students are then sent to the nurse's office. Students in the middle and high school are happy to be back in their clubs and activities. A youth risk survey was done but delayed until November 3rd and a report will be available when it is collated.

Joanne reported on the work of the Mental Health Task Force. On November 8th at 7pm there was panel of mental health professionals led by high school Principal Dan Bauer in the auditorium to answer questions and concerns. The event was very successful. The website is now available at marbleheadcares.org. The next meeting is scheduled for November 17th.

Transfer Station Update

Andrew reviewed with the Board that Winter Street Architects brought in a structural engineer to evaluate the in place compactor (specifically the cover, roof and sides). The estimates for project A and B should be available before the end of the year.

MOTION to approve the fee increases of the following health permits for 2022: mobile unit \$175, caterer \$175, retail residential kitchen \$175. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Ms. Miller, in favor; Mrs. Hazlett, in favor; Dr. Belfbecker, in favor.

MOTION to approve the following fee increases at the transfer station for 2022: solid waste fee \$210 per ton, mattress & box spring disposal \$25. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Ms. Miller, in favor; Mrs. Hazlett, in favor; Dr. Belfbecker, in favor.

Director's Report

- JRM had some delays picking up leaves last week due to staffing issues.
- Household hazardous waste community collection day is scheduled for December 8th. The signup form is available on the town website.
- Graffiti was found at the transfer station on November 13th. The swap shed containers were found to have anti-Semitic and racial graffiti on them. The police were notified and photos were taken. An ongoing investigation will take place. The graffiti has since been removed. Security cameras are an option to possibly install in the future.

Todd spoke about the upcoming holiday season and noted that wrapping paper is not recyclable. Recycle Smart is available on the town website www.marblehead.org to review what are acceptable recycling items. Also, the Charter School mentioned the Board of Health on the back of a school program stating: "we have received approval from the Marblehead Board of Health to not use masks for our performances". This is an untrue statement. The Board did not make that statement and the school was advised not to quote the Board without permission.

Todd opened the meeting to public comment period.

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for December 14th, January 11th, and February 1st.

MOTION to close meeting. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Mrs. Hazlett, in favor; Ms. Miller, in favor; Dr. Belfbecker, in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Andrea Flaxer
Senior Clerk