

MARBLEHEAD BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES, April 28, 2021

Present: Chm. Todd Belfbecker, Helaine Hazlett, Michelle Gottlieb, Andrew Petty, Director
Also Present: Dr. Tom Krueger (League of Women Voters)

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 March 9th as submitted. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Ms. Gottlieb, in favor; Mrs. Hazlett, in favor; Dr. Belfbecker, in favor.

MOTION to approve meeting minutes March 24th as amended. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Ms. Gottlieb, in favor; Mrs. Hazlett, in favor; Dr. Belfbecker, in favor.

MOTION to approve meeting minutes of April 5th as submitted. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Ms. Gottlieb, in favor; Mrs. Hazlett, in favor; Dr. Belfbecker, in favor.

Andrew reported that on 4/23/21 the Marblehead total case count = 1306; 23 active cases; 31 total deaths. The average daily incidence rate was 15.8/100,000, a slight increase over 4/16, and the percentage positive tests was 1.73%, also a slight increase. He indicated that the part of the explanation for the latter was that the governor's travel order had changed to an advisory, and now the number of tests had declined from 3000 over the previous two weeks to 2605 over the next time period. With fewer tests but the same number of positives, the percentage would go up. Statewide the number of cases continues to trend downward. All of this information is available on the town website marblehead.org. The age distributions of the cases are: 8, 0-19; 3, 20-29; 2, 30-39; 6, 40-49; 10, 50-59; 5, 60-69; 1, 70-79; and 3, >80. Many of the new infections are in the lower age groups as older age groups are getting vaccinated. As of April 16th, all >16 years old are eligible for vaccination.

In Marblehead 8,532 residents are fully vaccinated, representing 44% of the population of 19,036. The number with first doses is 4,203. The greater Northshore area from Lynn to Cape Ann has an average of 36.9% fully vaccinated.

Andrew then read aloud press release from the ten Northshore coalition of mayors, town managers and public health officers as they launch a 10-week campaign to promote widespread COVID-19 vaccination for a safe reopening by July. They hope to provide consistent and clear public health guidelines for vaccination and safe practices. The press release is available on the town website marblehead.org.

Andrew reviewed the recently released April 27th guidelines from the governor's office regarding face coverings (as of 4/30, relaxed when can socially distant outside; continued for indoors at both public and private, except if eating or drinking.) As of May 10th the state will move to Phase 4 Step 2 allowing larger occupancies at numerous venues, permission for road races, youth and amateur sports, etc. As of May 29th gatherings will permitted for indoor venues of 200 and outdoor for 250, all subject to COVID incidence data. The hope is that by August 1st all the remaining industries will be open, depending on vaccinations and public health data. For further information on guidelines check the state website at mass.gov.

MOTION to approve the health budget for FY22 in the amount of \$291,150.52. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Ms. Gottlieb, in favor; Mrs. Hazlett, in favor; Dr. Belfbecker, in favor.

MOTION to approve the waste budget for FY22 in the amount of \$2,412,439.00. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Ms. Gottlieb, in favor; Mrs. Hazlett, in favor; Dr. Belfbecker, in favor.

Michelle Gottlieb gave an update the Mental Health Task Force. The group met on April 12th and was joined by the chief of police. He will continue to attend as available, although he is transitioning out of his role as police chief. The group is proceeding to review “the landscape”, identifying resources that exist, often that people are unaware of, as well as gaps and needs. Each member is helping to collate this information and will bring back it to the group, so that it may be incorporated into an overall spreadsheet. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 6th at 7pm.

Director’s Report

Andrew reiterated the responsibility of residents for their trash and waste until it is actually in the truck. Windy days have led to lots blowing trash and numerous complaints. An information sheet is being written about this and if this continues a regulation may be needed. Also, the final solid waste contract with Waste Management is still in review but needs to be finalized. Leaf collection is taking place this week.

New Business

Helaine brought up her concerns about the proposed cannabis stores coming to town. The logistics, locations and parking were among her inquiries. The police chief has reviewed the proposed plans and found the parking to be acceptable.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Andrea Flaxer
Senior Clerk