

Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2020
Ashland Town Hall
101 Main Street, Ashland, MA

Diane Mortensen, Chair
Judi Teller, Clerk
Mark Oram, Agent/Director

Chris Daniele, Vice Chair
Ronald Etskovitz, Member
Koduvayur Narayana, Member

Members Present Via Zoom Meeting:

Diane Mortensen, Chris Daniele, Judi Teller, Ron Etskovitz and Koduvayur Narayana

Others Present:

Mark Oram, Health Agent/Director
Laura Clifford, Administrative Secretary
Sergeant Ed Burman, Ashland Police Department
Michael Herbert, Town Manager
Jennifer Ball, Assistant Town Manager
Mark Dassoni, Resident

Call Meeting to Order - 6:00 PM

Ms. Mortensen called the online meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

Citizens Participation

None.

Covid-19, Updates

Michael Herbert spoke to the Board regarding the Town's ongoing response to Covid-19; he noted that Sergeant Ed Burman will be the lead point person of the Town's task force. Mr. Herbert thanked Sergeant Burman for stepping up and Police Chief Alfonso for agreeing to this arrangement.

Sergeant Burman discussed the documents that Board Members had received in their packets which included informational slides regarding the process of contact tracing. Sergeant Burman also discussed other documents provided to the Board which included: a graph of confirmed cases, a graph of cleared cases, and a combined graph of confirmed and cleared cases. Sergeant Burman noted that as of noon today, there have been 65 positive cases, and 25 cases that have been cleared; he is hoping to streamline clearing cases. Sergeant Burman noted that he and Mr. Oram are working on getting additional volunteers, and that Public Health Nurse, Nancy Cleary, assigns cases to either one of the school nurses, or to a case tracker provided by the State. Ms. Teller inquired as to the number of school nurses, and how they are funded. Sergeant Burman noted that, currently, 3 of 7 of the school nurses are trained on MAVEN (Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network). Sergeant Burman noted that he created a list of cases with addresses only which is shared with the Police and Fire Chiefs.

Mr. Herbert noted that the Department of Public Health (DPH) originally did not want towns to report the numbers of cases in their town, but has since backtracked on that. Mr. Herbert noted that not all towns do report their numbers, but he believes it is important to be transparent with the public and we are updating the number of cases every day, including recoveries and any advisories.

Mr. Oram explained that Tom Curran, Food Inspector, has been in contact with the supermarkets by phone and email. Mr. Etskovitz noted that he observed good practices when he was at Market Basket; the shopping carts were being wiped down, and the aisles were moving in one direction. Mr. Oram

noted that if there was a situation which required him to go in, he would need to wear proper personal protective equipment.

Jennifer Ball discussed the protocols that the Town has put in place for construction sites with three or more workers. Sites must now submit a safety plan to include protocols for handwashing and safe distancing while on site. A daily construction certification must also be completed and provided to the Town.

Mark Dassoni inquired, and Sergeant Burman responded, that there are adequate medical supplies. Sergeant Burman told Board Members they can email him or call him any time. Board Members thanked Sergeant Burman, Mr. Herbert and Ms. Ball for attending tonight's meeting and for their work.

Old/New Business

Mary Mortensen Public Health Award, Discuss possible recipient for 2020

Board Members discussed nominations for consideration of the Mary Mortensen Public Health Award; the Board agreed that Amy Turncliff and the Decisions at Every Turn (DAET) organization has made tremendous contributions to the community for many years and would be a great choice.

Motion: Mr. Narayana made a motion to choose Decisions at Every Turn for the Mary Mortensen Public Health Award. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion approved.

Chair's Report

Update on Regionalization of Nursing Services

Ms. Mortensen noted that they are currently discussing hiring a Registered Nurse as the primary position with a Certified Nursing Assistant as a secondary position with three other towns; July 1st is the anticipated start date. Mr. Oram noted that no Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) have yet been signed. Mr. Oram noted he has contacted Ms. Teller's volunteer referral. Ms. Teller inquired as to why non-medical people are not allowed to assist; Ms. Mortensen noted MAVEN is very strict on this guideline. Ms. Teller offered to attend meetings with the City of Framingham Health Department.

Health Agent's Report

Budget FY20 Updates

Mr. Oram explained that we have received a \$13,000 grant from the Mass. Health Officer's Association and that we will be receiving an additional \$10,000 grant from the Metrowest Health Foundation. Nancy Cleary's ten hours per pay period are paid from the regular budget, the additional hours are paid with Covid-19 Grant funds.

Green Up Ashland Day, Postponed, New Date

Mr. Oram noted that September's Town event calendar got very busy, the new date for Green Up may be in October. Ms. Mortensen noted we can keep this item on the agenda.

Medical Reserve Corps. (MRC) Update

Ms. Mortensen noted that she had already received her ICS-100 certification and encouraged others who may want to join the MRC. The link with instructions will be re-sent to the Members, and this item will stay on the agenda.

Review Minutes, 03/10/2020

Not all Members have had an opportunity to review the minutes.

Motion: Mr. Narayana made a motion to table the review of minutes to the next meeting. Mr. Daniele seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion approved.

Discuss Future Agenda Topics for Future Meeting Dates

Board Members agreed to get back onto the regular meeting schedule and will meet next Tuesday, April 21, 2020.

Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Narayana made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0. Motion approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM.

ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 4/14/2020 MEETING
(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)

1. Follow-Up for Positive Covid-19 Cases and their Close Contacts
2. Graphs of Total Cases, Total Cleared, Combined Total Cases and Cleared
3. FY20, Year-to-Date Budget
4. Draft Minutes, March 10, 2020