



## OBSERVER CORPS REPORT

### **BOARD OF HEALTH – 10-8-24**

Hybrid Meeting - Recorded

LWVM Observer: Tom Krueger

**Members in Attendance: Andrew Petty, Tom McMahon, Tom Massaro, Helaine Hazlett**

### **Charter Committee Discussion - Board of Health**

The BOH is to meet with the Charter Committee on 10/22 at 6PM to answer questions about the BOH and HD (Health Department). Dr. Massaro began the discussion by noting that there are no bylaws about the BOH or HD about their relationship. He suggested that bylaws be made (perhaps by the warrant process) defining how the BOH would work with the HD. He noted that if a Marblehead town charter is approved, it would be difficult in the future to change as it would need to go to before the legislature for changes. Ms. Hazlett read from a document of Massachusetts Association of Health Boards a number of duties and relationships of BOH with HD. Dr. Massaro reiterated that the responsibilities need to be delineated in bylaws; the aforementioned document is a series of practices and conventions which could be arbitrarily changed. He went further to say that the BOH should be concerned with policy and strategy and the HD with operations and implementations. It was clear during the extended discussion that Dr. Massaro and Ms. Hazlett had differing views. All agreed that the town needs to see that the board is all working together.

Mr. Petty noted that two separate meetings were to be held. The first was the presentation to the Charter Committee on 10/22 that Ms. Hazlett and Dr. Massaro will attend. The two questions that they feel they will be asked are: 1) should the transfer station remain in the HD or in another department? - both agree that it should remain in the HD as the HD would still be required to do inspections (by law) wherever it was. 2) should the BOH have a professionally trained member? Nowhere does it say that is important or needed. A separate meeting would involve further discussion about the issue described in the previous paragraph.

### **BOH Meeting Calendar**

On 11/2 Dr. Coyle from the Cummings Center will be a guest. On 12/10 Ms. Hazlett proposed that the legal counsel for the Health Council come to give a required training for the BOH members to discuss legal issues that boards of health need to know. This meeting would start 30 minutes early and last for 1 hour. The meeting in March will be changed from 3/4 to 3/11

## **Wellness Fair**

Mr. McMahon and Mr. Petty discussed the specifics of the upcoming Wellness Fair. The event will take place at the Community Center 1/18/25 from 10 am to 2 pm. The rental cost is \$200 and there will be a cleaning fee. The vendor tables will cost \$25 each. Mr. McMahon has talked to a number of Marblehead vendors already eager to come. Mr. McMahon read a review of the degree of obesity in the US and all the attendant health issues related to obesity. Ms. Hazlett questioned who would be there and if other types of wellness issues would be included. Mr. McMahon emphatically said that this was about wellness, implying fitness, as well as nutrition.

## **Marblehead Mental Health 5K**

The Rotary Club is sponsoring this 5K for the 3rd year with the proceeds to go to all the schools to help deal with the issues of anxiety, depression, etc. The event is to take place on 11/3, leaving from and returning to the BYC. Mr. McMahon said he participated last year but would not be able to this year but has done much work promoting the event. He offered \$20 to anyone who beat his time last year.

## **Substance Abuse Programing**

A brief update - Mr. McMahon has been talking with Dr. Lebon of the MMHF and it was agreed that the program would be offered in February or March. Mr. Petty will explore what dates work. The program will be primarily individual speakers presenting.

## **Community Health Update**

### **Mental Health Task Force**

In its work the MHTF has had several guests with broad backgrounds and experiences present: Lisa Sugarman (author, columnist, suicide prevention advocate), Jean Skaane (health and wellness educator, owner of Still Waters) and Jessica Easter (youth pastor North Shore Youth Ministry). Special congratulations were given to Terri McDonough who was afforded a tuition scholarship for a week-long executive program on Mental Health leadership at Harvard.

### **UMASS Boston Health Assessment**

In the effort to assess the health needs of the MHD community Dr. Coyle of the Cummings Center will come to the BOH meeting on 11/2/24 to discuss a survey proposal with community and regional stakeholders. Initially surveys in the past have dealt primarily with mental health issues, but an expanded survey of other health needs would be much more comprehensive and useful. (Swampscott had such a survey done by the Cummings Center and found it very useful.) The cost of such a project would be approximately \$35K. (This is not in the budget, but as Mr. Petty noted that there is "lots of money out there for public health.") Note that when such surveys are done individual information is protected.

### **Best Practices Grant**

At the end of September Dr. Massaro presented two grant requests to Mr. Thatcher who forwarded them to the MA Community Best Practice Program for funding. These briefly are: 1. Developing a public health landscape of maternal and child health services; 2. Strengthening partnerships and creating teams to support mental health. Both of these were granted, totally \$90K to spent over the next two years. The proposed plan is to have Dr. Massaro oversee (1) and Dr. Lebon (of the MHTF) oversee (2). It was felt that having these two "in" the community would allow a more granular approach. (Mr. Petty read the full description of the two grant proposals.)

In further discussion Dr. Massaro identified two major risks that threaten public health in the US - a) declining workforce of health providers (people leaving health care) and b) vaccine hesitancy

## **Director's Report**

### **Transfer Station Construction Update**

The TS construction will soon be advertised (10/17) and put out to bid (10/22). The initial bids will be for a very scaled back project with work for the scale, site work, compactor, pads for big trucks, etc. Not included in this initial work is the transaction shed nor the swap shed. Once the initial work is completed, he will see what "can be added back in." This effort is to look for cost saving wherever possible. Mr. Petty has a list of 22 contractors who are all DECAM certified. The bidding process begins with the subcontractors followed by the general contractor choosing from those bids. There is no start date but might be during a slower period from mid-December to February, and hopefully last 8 weeks. During this construction the residential use area will remain open and cars will enter from Green Street and exit onto Woodfin Terrace. The hope is to get the commercial use up as soon as possible. There was further discussion about fiber optic cable laid for cameras and later a license plate reader (LPR) instead of stickers. This year will continue with purchasing stickers until such a system is installed.

### **Post Closure Environmental Monitoring and Inspection Contract**

A MA regulation stipulates that the transfer station closure requires monitoring and inspection. The contract is currently with Haley Ward who do spring and fall sampling and monitoring. The board moved and passed that the sum of \$49,750 for the new contract.

### **Household Hazard Waste Event**

The next Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is 10/16/24 from 4pm to 7pm at the transfer station for Marblehead and Swampscott residents. More information is available on the town website or by contacting the HD at 718-631-0212. The information lists what can and what cannot be brought as well as the cost - \$30 for 0-3 gal or lbs; \$40 for 3-10 gal or lbs; \$60 for 10-25 gal or lb.

### **Other**

A new inspector, Steve Moody, was hired and will start 10/23/24

Mr. McMahon asked about use of overtime at the transfer station. Mr. Petty said the overtime was fiscally the most responsible and is needed because of the minimal staff he has and the number of hours the transfers station remains open.