



OBSERVER CORPS REPORT

BOARD OF HEALTH - 4-8-2025

Hybrid Meeting, Recorded

LWVM Observer: Tom Krueger

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

Sexual Assault Awareness Month - April 2025

Ms. Hazlett read the proclamation written and signed by the Select Board and asked the BOH to endorse it. The motion was made and passed. Mr. McMahon wanted to note that Megan Sweeney was the one who promoted and presented this to the Select Board. After the vote the BOH took a moment to reflect on all those who have experienced it.

Creating a Healthier Marblehead - CAHM

Dr. Massaro has continued to meet with various groups in Marblehead and all express a genuine interest in the health assessment survey. Among the groups he has met with are: Marblehead Pediatrics (who made some suggestions), The Female Humane Society (for the second time), the MHD ministerial association. He is "in the queue" to speak to the Select Board, whose current energy is for the Town Meeting. Other groups that might be talked with include: the Chamber of Commerce, perhaps the banks, Salem Hospital OB-GYN, etc. He was asked about the reception from MHD pediatrics who were asked some good questions, e.g., what's it like to be a kid and a caregiver now for the ages 10-15. On a very positive note, the project has achieved 50% of the needed funds.

Measles

Dr. Massaro has received queries about how contagious measles is. He noted that the MHD Current wrote a summary about measles. With any travel to the US Southwest all infants age 1 year should have an MMR; it can be given as early as 6 months, but will have to be repeated again at 1 year of age.

He spoke further about one side effect of measles that is now getting more attention - "immune amnesia". A small percent of measles patients will LOSE immunity

against other diseases which will then have to be acquired again. He plans to do deeper research into this topic and how this is an example of public health science versus medical science. People need to understand more.

Mental Health Task Force update - the task force will soon be meeting with the MHD Counseling Center to see their perspective of the merger of the two. He will report this at the next meeting

Director's Report

Transfer Station - Mr. Petty reported the good news that the compactor as well as the new chute are installed, and there is a new "tipping" floor. The only recent "glitch" has been that the compactor when it is on the return cycle after pushing, an overload circuit is tripped. The company has been out to investigate, made some adjustments, and so far it seems to be working. Commercial business is back and they are filling two trailers a day. He noted that more customers are coming from greater distances as it is hard to find places that take trash.

Recycling - the company Republic (that is part of GreenWorks) that does recycling for MHD is shut down for a while (until December) to upgrade. The recycling is now being handled by Waste Management and going to Billerica. This is at no extra cost to MHD.

Transfer Station Traffic Flow - with the transaction hut and the compactor hut now in place, it is time that the traffic flow for residential and commercial customers to change. On **Monday 4/14/25** residential customers will enter via the Green Street entrance. The gates will open at 7am, allowing customers to queue along the driveway, before the TS opens at 7:30 am. Commercial customers will continue to enter via Woodfin Terrace.

As for the LPM (license plate readers) they will be installed in a few months. The transaction hut will have cameras, allowing full view of the entire site. When the LPR is installed, there will be enough time to spot scofflaws. There will also be parking at the transaction hut, so traffic flow won't be affected.

Regarding facility stickers, 60% of the total have already been sold - the popular times to buy stickers is in January, close to summer, and the fall. One still needs a physical sticker to access Devereux Beach.

Curbside Collection - Mr. Petty remarked that this is the last year of the town's very favorable contract. Republic will be approached, but the town is looking towards a 3, 5, or 10 year contract. At this point there is no limit on the amount that Marbleheaders can recycle. This may have to change in the future, requiring new rules and regulations. (No businesses are supposed to put out materials for curbside recycling). (Although not mentioned specifically at this meeting, at past meetings Mr. Petty has said that the cost for recycling will go up significantly.) The HD and BOH will have to have a talk with Fin Comm.

Other -

Hazardous Waste Day is scheduled for 5/31/25 and will use the transfer station as before. A new vendor will continue to recycle paint, gas, etc. but also will recycle latex paint. This mixed latex paint is sold in bulk

Curbside leave collection will occur on the weeks of 4/21, 5/12, and 6/2.

Final drafts of the tobacco and body art regulations are “out” and a public meeting to discuss them will be set up for 4/28/25

The meeting schedule for the next 3 months is 4/28/25, 5/13/25 and 6/3/25.

The meeting was adjourned and the BOH went into executive session.