



## OBSERVER REPORT

**BOARD OF HEALTH:** 4/28/21 LWVM Observer - Thomas Krueger

Members in Attendance via Zoom - Andrew Petty, Todd Belf-Becker, Sec. Andrea Flaxer, Michelle Gottlieb, Helaine Hazlett

Meeting Posted 48 hrs in advance

Meeting held in a Handicapped Accessible Location - not applicable

Public allow to Participate in the Meeting - yes via Zoom.

### COVID UPDATE

- Andrew reported that on 4/23/21 the MHD 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 noted 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 3000s over the previous 2 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. (These details as well as wealth of other statistics, information about vaccines, side effects of vaccines, websites, etc. are all available [marblehead.org](http://marblehead.org)). The age distribution of the cases is: 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 4/16, all >16 years old are eligible for vaccination.)
- In MHD 8,532 are fully vaccinated, representing 44% of MHD total population of 19,036. The number with first doses = 4,203. The greater Northshore area, Lynn to Cape Ann, has an average of 36.9% fully vaccinated.
- Andrew then read a press release from 10 Northshore coalition of mayors, town managers and public health officer as they launch a 10-week campaign to promote widespread COVID vaccination for a safe reopening by July. They hope to provide consistent and clear public health guidelines for vaccination and safe practices. (Release available in local newspapers.)

- Andrew alerted all to the vaccinations are now open to all MA residents at Lynn Tech. Register at the Lynn town website. Often one is able to get a vaccination appointment the next day.
- He also reiterated the news that on 4/24 the FDA and CDC had lifted the Johnson and Johnson vaccine pause. This allows more vaccinations to a larger population. It may be particularly attractive to those who prefer a “one and done” vaccination.

Andrew then read the **recently released (4/27) 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 5/10 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 5/29 gatherings will permitted for indoor venues of 200, and outdoor for 250, all subject to COVID incidence data. The hope is that by 8/1 all the remaining industries will be open, depending on vaccinations and public health data. (Available in detail at mass.gov.) With these more relaxed guidelines, there is a possibility of a Memorial Day parade, but more guidance will be needed for this.

## **HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET**

The budget has been presented and approved by the Finance Committee and now requires BOH vote on each. The following were passed: Health budget ‘22 = \$291,150; Waste budget ‘22 = \$2,412,239.

**MENTAL HEALTH TASK FORCE:** Michelle Gottlieb gave an update.

The group met on 4/12 and was joined by the chief of police, Mr. Picariello. He will continue to attend as available, although he is transitioning out of his role as police chief. Hopefully, this can be transitioned to someone else. 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 5/6 7pm to avoid conflict with the MHD Town Meeting. Normally, the meetings are held a Monday, 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 issue; if this continues a regulation may be needed.
- Other business - the final solid waste contract with Waste Management is still in review but needs to be finalized. Leaf collection will occur this week, generally on the same day as trash is usually collected.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

A query was raised about the new cannabis store and does the BOH have any input. There were no specific comments. There was some discussion about traffic and parking but this has been already reviewed by the chief of police.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- A question was raised about the relaxed indoor occupancy of 200 and relation to venue's square footage. The town meeting is a "special event" and is exempt to outdoor limits (250). The tent that is used has a capacity of 500+ and there will be an overflow tent at parking lot across from the police station. The quorum will be back to 300.
- Another question was raised about the number of children <16 in MHD. Those statistics were not readily available, however, the age breakdown in MHD for 0-19 = 4514, 20-29 = 1553, 30-49 = 3712, 50-64 = 4874, 65-74 = 2691, and > 75 = 1693. The percentage of each of the age groups that are fully vaccinated are: 23%, 20-29; 34%, 30-49; 38%, 50-64; 77%, 65-74; and 93%, >75.

The meeting was adjourned with the next scheduled for 5/11/21 and 5/25/21.