

Marblehead League of Women Voters
Observer Corp Report Form

League Observer - Thomas Krueger

Joint Board of Health and Board of Selectman Date - 4/2/20

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

Coronavirus - COVID 19

The majority of the meeting was an update from Andrew Petty of the current COVID-19 status:

The Board of Health is monitoring and accessing the evolving situation. As of 3/30 there were 13 positive cases in Marblehead. (The Board of Health will be updating the number each Monday after 4pm and posting them on the web site.) There has been extensive contact tracing and if you have not been notified, then you are not affected.

On 3/23 at the state level Governor Baker has stated that all nonessential business should remain closed. This affects all shops, and this will be enforced if it is necessary. (Landscapers are permitted to continue working.) People should stay at home and only go out for essential needs. It would be best to identify only one person to go shopping. People are urged to try to obtain 90 day prescription refills from their pharmacies. All people coming from outside Marblehead should quarantine for 14 days. It is OK to get gas and fresh air, preferably on your own property. Avoid crowds, remember social distancing (6 feet minimum), etc. Over 60 signs will be posted around town to reinforce these recommendations. (It is clear that social distancing is "flattening the curve" of new cases.) Information is available at <https://www.mass.gov/resource/information-on-the-outbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19> . Via phone "211" is an information hotline.

Counseling services for mental health issues are available at the Marblehead Council Center as well as through the ministerial association.

If you do become sick, stay at home. You and your family will need to stay home until the quarantine is lifted. There are resources available for you to get help, e.g., food.

The transfer station is open but may need to close on Saturday because of staffing issues. Social distancing needs to be respected and all items need to be bagged.

Grocery stores have senior hours, no reusable bags will be used, and carts are wiped down.

One board member asked about how long contact tracing takes. Andrew says it done very quickly, trying within the first day. They are looking at direct contacts, starting 2 days before the onset of symptoms. Another board member noted the high anxiety in the community which Andrew acknowledged and suggested some basic anxiety relieving practices (yoga, meditation, etc.) Another questioned about the recommendations for a person who has the symptoms but is unable to get a test or is listed as presumptive. Andrew said it is best to be

safe, even though there are other possible causes, such as, influenza or allergies. Questions about testing - no site yet, one should have symptoms before testing, and one should contact your PCP, not the BOH. The BOH is contacted immediately if there is a positive in the town, so it is not up to the patient to contact the BOH.

During the public questioning period, one resident expressed her distress about the presence of numerous leaf blowers in her neighborhood, leading to high noise level and particulates in the air. Andrew noted that Governor Baker has said the landscaping is an essential business, and there are no rules. In addition Andrew and his staff are extremely busy dealing with COVID 19.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 4/7/20, at 4pm. After this meeting, the BOH will be WEEKLY, on Thursday, at 4pm, via Zoom conferencing. The link is available on the Marblehead BOH Facebook page.