

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARBLEHEAD OBSERVER CORPS REPORT FORM

Joint BOH and Board of Selectmen: Date - 4/22/20 League Observer - Thomas Krueger

Members in Attendance via Zoom - BOH : Andrew Petty, Todd Belf-Becker, Helaine Hazlett , Sec. Andrea Flaxer, Michelle Gottlieb, BOS: Judy Jacobi, Moses Grader, Jackie Belf-Becker, Harry Christiansen, Jim Nye

Meeting Posted 48 hrs. in advance

Meeting held in a Handicapped Accessible Location - not applicable

Public allow to Participate in the Meeting

Summary of Agenda Items: for the Board of Health

Coronavirus - COVID 19

Andrew Petty gave an update on COVID 19 from the state and local level. At the state level Governor Baker has ordered that all schools and nonessential child care facilities remain closed through 6/29. Stay at home orders continue with the exception of trips to the grocery stores and pharmacies and exercise near one's home as before. The governor has requested that home owners and tenants be protected from evictions and foreclosures. Andrew stressed once again that COVID information be obtained from trusted sites, e.g., mass.gov, marblehead.org, CDC, WHO, etc. The Massachusetts phone # 211 is available 24 hrs a day, seven days a week, for questions and information. There is a Disaster Distress Help Line, 800-985-5990, a national hotline to provide immediate crisis counseling for people in emotional distress. In addition there is the Massachusetts COVID Relief Fund (www.macovid19relieffund.org) to support healthcare workers, first responders, essential workers, as well as disproportionately affected households, the food insecure, those with disabilities, and homeless populations.

Medically, there is a need for blood donations, and the town is looking into potentially helping. The State has teamed up with the organization, Partners in Health, to do contact tracing for all positive cases of COVID. The process for identification of cases and contacts is as follows: cases are identified in the MAVEN program, the clearing house for cases. When cases are found, they are interviewed for all contacts (household, etc.). The contacts are then interviewed, tested, and isolated. This can be an immense undertaking. The program is expected to fully operational by 5/4.

Andrew gave the current MA statistics for COVID disease: 180,000+ tests; 42,000+ cases; 9% hospitalization rate; 1961 deaths (4/22/20 2,182). (All the statistic are available at the mass.gov website.) The "peak" can not be predicted accurately without more testing

Questions followed: 1) does Marblehead need assistance in contact tracing? At this time, no

2) testing in Marblehead? This is still an issue. There is a test used by CVS that is rapid, yielding a positive result in 8 minutes and a negative in 15 minutes. When asked about the accuracy of the test, Andrew responded there are few false positive, but up to 8% false negatives.

3) what specifics for Marblehead residents? Andrew reiterated that people should get their information from trusted sites. He reminded all that there is an Emergency Order in place since 4/17 about facial covering use. (The seven-part order in on the Town website.) He emphasized that social distancing is even better. He then reviewed the steps one should follow when donning or removing a facial covering: wash hands before donning, leave covering in place, avoid touching the face (especially the eyes, nose, and mouth); when removing, wash hands again, store covering safely, and each person should have own dedicated covering.

The meeting then proceeded to the agenda for the Board of Selectman after which the meeting ended, and went into executive session.