

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARBLEHEAD OBSERVER CORPS OBSERVER REPORT

Board of Health: Date - 4/30/20 League Observer - Thomas Krueger

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

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:

Coronavirus - COVID 19

Andrew Petty gave the updates over the past week for the state and locally. At the state level as of 4/28, there were 3875 patients hospitalized in MA, which is approximately the same as it has been. There are 18,200 hospital beds across the state with 54% available. New COVID cases =1963, total affected across the state = 60,625, new deaths (4/28) = 252, total deaths = 3405; 6% of cases are hospitalized; total quarantine =27,939; finished quarantine = 17,659; currently in quarantine or monitored =10,280.

As noted before there are a number of trusted websites to visit for information or how to help - marblehead.org, mass.gov, CDC, WHO, etc. Buoy Health, an online app, provides guidance regarding symptoms, next steps, etc.

Separately, questions were asked about the Red Cross and blood donations. Currently, the Red Cross is bringing a bus to a designated site; donors are spaced so that the areas can be wiped down between the next donor. There is no current site locally although plans are being tentatively made a location at the Boston Yacht club.

New business:

Andrew presented a proposal for "Guidance for Residents on Wearing Face Coverings During COVID - 19". Briefly, this guidance reiterated wearing facial covering whenever one is outside or entering a public setting. This is not a substitute for physical distancing or hand washing. The facial covering may help people with COVID 19 who are asymptomatic from spreading the virus. Those who should NOT wear a covering are children 2 or younger, anyone who has trouble breathing, and anyone who is incapacitated or unable to remove a covering. The guidance reiterated the proper way to wear a facial covering: snugly, secured with ties or ear loops, multiple layers of cloth, etc. In addition, wearing a facial covering was recommended even when out briefly, to keep on, and to properly remove. Further recommendations included when exercising, removing of mask, and how to make your own facial covering. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/DIY-cloth-face-covering-instructions.pdf>)

Questions from the board followed: will this directive change with time? Most likely, as things evolve

The Board voted and accepted the above Guidance proposal.

Although not under the purview of the board, Andrew read the MA state guidance document for boating and boating ramps. (The full text of this is on marblehead.org) . Of particular note, launches will be prohibited. Questions followed about which sites will be open. Riverhead will be open and in order to limit any social gathering, times must be arranged through the Park and Rec.

Further discussion included acknowledging mental health issues many are having and available resources; donations to food banks should be monetary; etc.

As to whether camps and pools will be open this summer, Andrew said that there is a weekly meeting with the state and it is being worked on. Currently camps are in the same category as daycare which are closed except deemed essential and are closed at least until 6/29.

When asked about the sudden “jump” in the number of cases of COVID in Marblehead, Andrew said that this was a result of case finding in long term care facilities. The National Guard and a group from MIT has gone to each facility and found 10-30 cases among residents and staff, including asymptomatic cases.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on 5/7/20 at 4pm.