

Marblehead League of Women Voters Observer Corps Report Form

Joint BOH and Board of Selectman Date - 4/7/20 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:

COVID 19 Update:

Andrew Petty provided an update since last meeting on 4/2/20. On 4/3 the MA BOH formed a partnership with the organization Partners in Health, who has about 1000 employees, to help with contact tracing of COVID 19 cases. Currently the MDH BOH doesn't need these as they have many volunteers, including school nurses.

On a statewide level the National Guard is going to long term care facilities to test residents. They have gone to 28 facilities and done 557 tests.

Testing sites: there is a site in Foxboro that opened Sunday to test first responders with results in 24-48 hours. The state of MA has partnered with CVS to have a drive through site in Lowell that will offer rapid testing results. This site requires a referral from a doctor as well as scheduling an appointment.

Over the weekend the CDC has recommended that all people should wear cloth masks, especially when going to the grocery stores and pharmacies. These should be worn when ever the possibility of interacting with others. They are not necessary for running, jogging, and walking at a distance. The CDC does want the N95 and surgical masks to be saved for first responders and health care professionals.

The state of Massachusetts has started a COVID 19 relief fund.

In Marblehead, there is a volunteer corp, including the Council on Aging and others, that are helping to be sure that people in need are getting services.

In MHD, there are continuing to be problems with people respecting social distancing. Particular areas have been along Ocean View drive, and Beach Avenue. Signs has been posted for temporarily parking ban in those locations. The BOH is working with the police department to prevent people gathering. The town also will have volunteers wearing white and yellow shirts, the social distancing ambassadors, to remind people to continue social distancing.

In MHD, as of 4/6 4pm, there are currently 28 positive test cases and 10 have ended quarantine. Because of patient confidentiality numbers for those hospitalized is not available. There have been no deaths.

As a reminder for mental health needs, the Marblehead Counseling Center is available as well as well as the statewide 211 phone number.

In response to the concern for landscaping work from the last meeting, Andrew says that MHD is following the governor's orders allowing this to continue, and the governor's orders are not to be superseded.

New Business:

One BOH member was contacted by Maura Dartley-Rocco, a health educator at the Middle school. As a project for her students she reached out to have them create posters about the CDC recommendations and guidelines and adapting those for a younger audience. There has been an enthusiastic response with over 50 unique posters, using their own designs and words. Using the app Google Classroom these are able to be posted so that the students can share and see each other's work. The BOH was delighted with the work and decided to post some of these on the MHD BOH Facebook page, pending permission from the students and parents.

Director's Report:

Andrew continues to be concerned about the density at the Transfer Station and has proposed to close this on Saturday, 4/11 and 4/18. He trying to encourage people to stay home. (The transfer station needs to be open week days for trash collection.) This proposal was accepted and passed.

From a meeting of the Board of Selectman on 4/7, it was decided to postpone Town Meeting uniting 6/29/20, and the quorum would only need to be 30. (The maximum number in the performing arts auditorium with social distancing of 6 feet would only be 75.) The warrants for the meeting will only be budget related. Other warrants would be at a future meeting. Of note all people seeking election still need to gather paper signatures and submit these by the appropriate time.

The fire work for the Fourth of July have been cancelled as well as the Festival of the Arts.

The next MHD BOH meeting will be on 4/16/20 at 4 pm. The Zoom url to join the meeting is on the Marblehead Town website, under the specific meeting.