

League Observer - Thomas Krueger

Board of Health: - 6/4/20

Members in Attendance via Zoom - 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

### **COVID update:**

Andrew gave an update on COVID statistics for MHD for the past week. There was only 1 additional case, bringing the total to 224 cases; 136 active cases; no new deaths; 88 have ended quarantine/isolation. On the total cases, 58.92% were in LTCF, and deaths, 99.67% in LTCF. ( For clarification of death statistics, if a MHD resident (e.g. from a nursing home), dies in another hospital (e.g. Salem), this death is recorded for MHD.)

During the past week the Health Department has continued to be busy and are preparing the anticipated start on phase 2 on 6/8. The state's statistical dashboard shows encouraging trends with the percent of positive cases decreasing even as the number of tests increases; the hospitals all are able to "keep up" with their caseloads.

Phase 2 will have guidelines and regulations for camps and pools. In this regard the JCC is planning on having a camp this summer as well as the use of their pool (note - the JCC is a private, not a community pool.) Perhaps the most difficult requirement for the camps is to provide a location so that the campers can "shelter in place" if there is a storm, etc. The JCC building, therefore, would have to follow social distancing rules, so that they would have to do "head counts" to be sure the number is not exceeded. Andrew was questioned about whether the JCC would limit camp to older children as it is difficult to have young children socially distance. He replied that is a very good question. Note - if the pool is used, although facial coverings are discouraged in the water, children would still have to be at least 6 feet apart - implying only using every other lane. Since the JCC is a private pool, the pool could be open to members in the afternoon - again complying with all the regulations (social distancing, cleaning of locker rooms, showers, etc.) beforehand. A question was raised about swim practices. At this time, the plan is tentatively to use the outdoor pool, again with only using alternate lanes.

All the other camps in MHD have cancelled their programs for this summer. Children's Island is in Salem, so is under the purview of the Salem BOH. The ferry, however, operates from the landing in Marblehead, and currently the state rules are that only family members can be on a boat. This presents a dilemma. The Lynch - Van Otterloo YMCA is also located in Salem; it is unclear presently how this will be open and used.

Andrew informed the Board that although the department is given a preview of what the guidelines are for the phases, they don't actually get to see them until they are released. If

phase 2 goes well and the statistics continue to be encouraging, phase 3 would start by the end of June. What these will allow (contact sports, etc.) is currently unknown.

One board member noted that all will have to be aware of any “uptick” in cases that usually appears about 14 days or later, especially, after the gatherings for Mother’s Day, increased crowds with the good weather, grad parties, and most recently the Black Lives Matter March. Crowds at the beaches have been staying 12 feet apart, but facial coverings have been lacking.

The plan currently is to reopen municipal building by 6/15. Employees will be returning by 6/10. It is necessary to make adjustments before allowing the public back in - there may have to be reduced hours to allow for full cleaning. The public will be required to have facial covering, socially distance, bring their own pens, and will not be allow to use the rest rooms. It is advisable to make an appointment before coming, but not necessary if make a brief visit (e.g. to pay a bill, etc.) Note - if there is a positive case, the affected site will have to be closed for 14 days and have a deep cleaning.

Andrew and Helaine have now had 2 meetings with the committee charged with “reopening” of MHD regarding restaurants and retail businesses. The town planner, Becky Cutter, as well as the chief of police and chief of the fire department have done a number of “walk through”. A number of scenarios are being entertained - e.g., using School Street for outdoor seating on the sidewalks and street, except for a traffic lane to be used by the fire department if necessary. Another idea is for retail establishments to have sidewalk sales. The chamber of commerce and merchants have all been very cooperative. Again, each business (restaurant or retailer) has numerous guidelines and needs to formulate a COVID plan, train employees, and develop an outdoor plan. For restaurants, they will need a contact number for a patron’s table in case there is a positive case, so that contract tracking can be done.

Farmer’s Market - went well. Bobby did an initial inspection and will return a couple of weeks to do a follow up. As noted before, she checked re social distancing, facial covering, spacing, single line flow, etc. Socializing was not allowed. Only food vendors were present.

Miscellaneous: minutes for BOH meeting 4/16 and 4/22 were approved.

The meeting was adjourned and the next BOH meeting is scheduled for 6/11/20 at 7PM via Zoom teleconferencing.