

Board of Health-Date - 7/9/20 MLWV Observer: Tom Krueger
Members in Attendance via Zoom -BOH : Andrew Petty, Todd Belf-Becker, Helaine Hazlett, Andrea Flaxer (sec)

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:

1. Fowl permit - a resident applied for a fowl permit. They have agreement from the neighbors and a plan in place. This will be only for the summer-fall: a rent-a-flock. They will have no roosters, protection from vermin and predators, and the BOH reserves the right to inspect. If this is to done next year, the resident only need to reapply for a permit. This was approved by the board.
2. Facility permit sticker - a resident inadvertently paid twice. A refund was approved by the board.
3. Letter to the editor - given the low attendance at the Town Meeting, a letter from the Board was submitted to the Marblehead Report commending the work of the all the staff at the Health Department, other town officials, and especially Andrew Petty. Andrew said that he and staff appreciated the support and recognition
4. COVID update -

Andrew related that MHD has had 237 confirmed cases, 8 new cases in town, and no additional deaths. The new cases are all individuals in their 20s and 30s, a trend that is extending across the country. Andrew reminded all that any traveler coming or returning to MA should self quarantine. Travelers from MA to Maine are to also quarantine 14 days- (this has been waved for travelers from low states that have incidence rates at lower than Maine, e.g., N.H.)

Andrew reminded anyone who has been a close contact of a positive case to get tested and self-quarantine for 14 days after the last the last contact with this case. This is true even if the test result is negative, as the incubation period for COVID is typically 6 days but can be up to 14 days. One should check their temperature twice a day and note all symptoms as symptoms of COVID are now many more than originally suspected - even including a rash. If one is a positive case, please contact the Health Department and report all contacts. (Note - a close contact is one who has been within less than 6 feet of a positive case for more than 15 minutes, regardless of this occurring inside or outside or with or without a mask.) The importance of identifying contacts is paramount for containing the virus. (One positive MHD case did not want to identify their contacts, and since this is only a policy, it can't be legally required.)

Andrew averred that the virus is very active in the US with nearly 60,000 cases a day, 3 million across the US, and concerns that this could become 100,000 new cases daily. As many know the EU and Canada have closed their borders, effective 7/21/20. Canada at this point has only 109,000 case total. Fortunately, MA cases are trending down, there is more testing available, but vigilance will be needed.

Another CODE RED notification is planned for 7/10. One was attempted before the holiday, but was unable to get launched. The Marblehead website has all the relevant information, including travel bans, age range of cases, etc.

Questions were asked about the beaches - Andrew reported that all seemed to be going OK; the harbormaster has been patrolling; most are wearing masks or donning when needed.

Phase 3 reopening began on 7/6 and comes in discrete parts. It is unclear how many parts there are, and it is unknown how long between each part. (Note, Phase 4 will not go into effect until there is a COVID vaccine.). The allowable activities include movie theaters, outdoor performances, museums, cultural and historical venues, health clubs, professional sports, etc. There are specific guidelines for each one and need to be reviewed – [mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov). For example, sports are divided into low, medium, and high risk categories - e.g., low risk = tennis, paddle ball; medium risk = softball, swim clubs, etc.; high risk = football, basketball, etc. Within each of these risk areas are levels 1-4 - (for example, low risk level 1 = individual, level 2 = couples, level 3 = competitive, and level 4 = tournaments.). Again, all of these myriad guidelines are listed on [mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov). Unfortunately, Andrew is not notified in advance of new regulations and finds out at the same time as the public; these can take some study to fully understand.

The JCC is the only camp in MHD that is open. This was inspected initially and there have been no complaints.

The MHD Reopening committee has continued to meet and is discussing phase 3 regulations and guidelines. There has been a lot of behind the scenes work by Jason Silva, Becky Cutter, etc. The Board of Selectman continues to meet and to approve the businesses, so in effect the reopening committee are more of an adjunct. In MHD there are 13 restaurants open and doing outdoor dining, which is preferred for health reasons, but they are also able to do indoor dining, especially in inclement weather. MHD has applied for a Shared Street grant to aid business; the extra funds will help restaurants, for example, with lighting or a portable handicap ramp. Other towns have painted their Jersey barriers, and MHD will commission some artists to do the same.

Other questions arose around MHD retail establishments. Again there are regulations and guidelines for these activities. For example, in a clothing store, one is able to touch the clothing, but if it is “tried on”, then the item is quarantined for 24 hours or steam cleaned. Patrons who want to try things on, need to make an appointment for this. Body lotions, etc. can’t be touched. Retail stores are considering a sidewalk sale tentatively on 9/12.

The Farmer’s Market has been continuing to run. The farmers seem “happy” so far with how it is going. By state so far has not permitted any clothing or crafts at farmer’s market.

5. Other infectious diseases - a question was raised about EEE (eastern equine encephalitis), a virus carried by mosquitoes. Andrew said that the town still has New England Mosquito control and that the town has mosquito traps that are checked weekly for EEE and West Nile virus. If there was positive identification, the public would be notified. If this was a problem, it tends to occur toward the end of the summer. Recommendations would be stay in at dawn and dusk, tip over any free-standing water, etc. Andrew also said that back in November, 2019, there was a conference and a resulting document, Emerging Infectious Diseases in Massachusetts. At the time there were suggestions this would be a bad year.

6. Beach testing - this done weekly on a Wednesday with results available by Thursday. There have been no closures. Of note, flyers have been posted about jelly fish (lions mane) in the waters; these are associated with painful but rarely fatal reactions.

The next meeting for the Board of Health is scheduled for 7/21/20 at 7:30 via Zoom teleconferencing.

Sent from my iPad