

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARBLEHEAD OBSERVER CORPS REPORT FORM

Board of Health: 4-16-20 LWVM Observer: Tom Krueger

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

The meeting opened with the board members thanking Andrew and all his staff for their prodigious work. The members appreciated Andrew's hard work, availability and prompt responses to questions and queries.

Andrew updated the board about COVID 19 from the state and local level.

At the state level as of 4/15/20 he stated that there were > 29,000 cases, with 1750 new case that day, and 1108 deaths. This information is now broken down by age, sex, ethnicity, etc. and the rates per town (cases per 100,000) are available. In addition more than 132,000 tests have been performed with approximately 4000 per day. One million pieces of PPE from FEMA is to be distributed this week. Long term residential facilities are at great risk and the National Guard have gone to 264 facilities and done over 4500 tests. The State has a rapid response system with nurses and technician to go to "hotspots." They are currently hiring people, offering a \$1000 signing bonus. An application, Bouy Health, (<https://www.bouyhealth.com>) is on line ap to help people check symptoms and clarify their options for care. In addition there is a COVID Response report (<https://mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-cases-quarantine-and-monitoring>) that has the total number of cases in MA, cases by town/city, cases by hospital, hospital capacity, PPE distribution, etc. This is updated daily. MEMA (Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency) (<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-emergency-management-agency>) has information about resources for residents. The best sources of information are [MA.gov](https://www.mass.gov), CDC, WHO, [marblehead.org](https://www.marblehead.org) websites. 211 continues to be a resource for questions including mental health needs.

(Marblehead employers are being helped via MHD assistance program for finances, stress, etc.)

At the local level Andrew continued his report noting 200+ volunteers are calling those residents over 80 years old to check on their well being. There were 67 Social Distancing volunteers who helped over the past weekend. Others volunteers are helping seniors with grocery delivery. (Of note some of the agencies, such as, United Way, have not been available for funds and other sources are being sought.) Landlords and utility companies are being asked to be considerate during the pandemic. The Marblehead food pantry is accepting monetary donations as they then use these to buy food in bulk. In addition, the

Salvation Army (in Salem) has a pantry operating MWF 9-11; this is open to MHD residents. The Village School is preparing > 300 meals/day for those in need. The Council on Aging is helping with meal and grocery delivery. The Marblehead Guidance Center is offering counseling via telephone, but not face-to-face.

As of 4/15 there were 52 COVID cases in Marblehead with approximately 25 in recovery. There have been no reported deaths.

NEW BUSINESS

Andrew presented a seven part EMERGENCY ORDER, regarding face covering. The text of this order in full is on the town website, marblehead.org. In brief the order was for face coverings entering any essential business, entering any restaurant for pickup, all employees of essential businesses open to the public, food and delivery personnel, entering any residential or commercial building complex. In addition the order stipulated proper disposal of gloves, facial covering, etc., and that essential businesses shall post signage about facial covering requirement and physical distancing of at least six feet. This order is to be in place until it is lifted. The order will be ENFORCED by the Board of Health and police department. Fines up to \$1000 will be levied. The order if approved is to start 12:01am 4/17/20. After some brief questions, the order was proposed, seconded, and passed unanimously.

After the vote Andrew said that the towns on the North Shore are working together on regulations so that it is not patchwork and is consistent.

One board member wanted to reiterate that it is important to wear a facial covering correctly - e.g., over the nose and chin. Wearing a covering around the neck and then moving it in place actually doesn't work and defeats the action

The next Board of Health meeting will be the Board of Selectman on 4/22/20 at 10am./