

TOWN OF HARWICH



BOARD OF HEALTH

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**TOWN OF HARWICH BOARD OF HEALTH
TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020-6:30 P.M.
HARWICH TOWN HALL- REMOTE MEETING
MINUTES**

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MEETING WAS HELD REMOTELY BY ALL PARTICIPANTS

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §20, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Harwich Board of Health is being conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order.

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairwoman Pamela Howell R.N., Vice Chairwoman Sharon Pflieger, Member Ronald Dowgiallo, D.M.D & Member Matthew Antoine (all remote)

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Health Director Meggan Eldredge & Executive Assistant Jennifer Clarke (all remote)

OTHERS PRESENT: Paresh Patel (all remote)

Recording & Taping Notification: As required by law, the Town may audio or video record this meeting. Any person intending to either audio or video record this open session is required to inform the Chair.

I CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Howell called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING- March 17, 2020

Ms. Pflieger moved to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2020 as amended, 2nd by Mr. Dowgiallo. The vote was 4-0-0 with Ms. Howell, Ms. Pflieger, Mr. Dowgiallo and Mr. Antoine all voting aye by roll call.

III 6:30-7:00 PM- BOARD OF HEALTH WORK SESSION

A. Continued review of draft Town of Harwich Nutrient and Pesticide Control Bylaw/Education-ALL DISCUSSION WILL BE CONTINUED UNTIL THE MAY 18, 2020 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Mr. Dowgiallo moved to continue the review of draft Town of Harwich Nutrient and Pesticide Control Bylaw/Education until the May 18, 2020 Board of Health meeting, 2nd by Ms. Pflieger. The vote was 4-0-0 with Ms. Howell, Ms. Pflieger, Mr. Dowgiallo and Mr. Antoine all voting aye by roll call.

B. Health Director Update on COVID-19

Health Director Eldredge informed the Board that the state reported numbers for today are 1,556 new cases for a total of 41,199 cases in Massachusetts. In Barnstable County, there are 672 positive cases. In Harwich, we remain at 29 cases. Governor Baker has reiterated that we are in the surge of the virus which is reflected by hospitalizations and deaths. The cases are known to climb because we are doing more testing, but it is the deaths and hospitalizations that tax the health care system. 97.5% of all deaths are in people that have pre-existing conditions and most of them are in the 80-90 year old age group. In Harwich, there is one nursing home and one assisted living facility and neither have any cases. Governor Baker has announced today that Massachusetts schools will be closed for the remainder of the school year, and that goes for child care facilities as well. Child care facilities for essential employees will remain operating.

Ms. Howell stated that thankfully a lot of people are testing and receiving results within 24 hours and there are a lot more negative results than positive. Health Director Eldredge stated that a lot of people that are testing positive are asymptomatic.

Mr. Dowgiallo asked if the town is going to start testing on a regular basis or if they have to have symptoms. Health Director Eldredge responded that testing is up to medical providers. She is not aware of any plans to do testing through the Health Departments. There is a home kit that has been FDA approved and also requires a doctor's order.

As far as town wide updates, Health Director Eldredge stated that she has been working with Interim Town Administrator Joe Powers to do some different policy type openings and closures for government operation so that staff can be protected as well as the public. Over the last couple of weeks, changes have been made to Town Hall, Brooks Library, Community Center and the Transfer Station. Hopefully the surge is coming down and we will be able to re-asses to have more staff in the building. Health Director Eldredge worked with Lincoln Hooper regarding operations at the Transfer Station. The c & d, manure and yard waste areas were closed down for a week in order to reduce the number of staff needed. Those have since been opened up with new traffic patterns to allow for socially distancing. The library is still closed and the Council on Aging is operating as much remotely as possible while still providing meal services for seniors and delivering groceries and doing pharmacy shopping for residents who cannot get out themselves. The Town Nurse is also working remotely as much as possible. Harwich's Youth Services Coordinator is holding therapy and behavioral health counseling mostly by video conference.

Health Director Eldredge asked for the Board's opinion on wearing gloves and masks when out in public.

Based on her experience, Ms. Pflieger feels that anyone going out right now should be wearing a mask. We don't know enough about COVID-19 to know how it will behave. It would make a lot of sense for everyone to wear masks considering we don't really know how many people have been infected. Ms. Pflieger feels that we should have a regulation requiring everyone to wear a mask when they are outside. Gloves are not as important as a mask because with gloves, you can still contaminate yourself or someone else. This is where hand washing and cleaning comes into play.

Mr. Dowgiallo stated that he doesn't see the point of wearing a mask if no one is around. If you are in company with other people, then yes, wear a mask. Getting fresh air is important. Ms. Pflieger agreed that if you are by yourself, then you don't have to wear a mask, but you should have one with you. There have been studies that are showing if you walk past someone and they happen to cough, the droplets hang in the air a lot longer than originally thought. Ms. Pflieger thinks the changes are remote, but they are there.

Mr. Antoine stated that if you are entering a structure, then you should put a mask on. If you are outside, you should at least have a mask with you. Most people are not trained to use gloves properly, so they are going to misuse them. He believes that masks are the critical point as well as frequent hand washing.

An e-mail from Robert Gaston was read into the record. Mr. Gaston had comments regarding wearing masks in public as well as policies going forward with respect to sanitizing rental properties in between tenants.

Health Director Eldredge read into the record an email from another citizen who had comments regarding wearing masks in public.

Health Director Eldredge stated that as of now, rentals are ordered closed by the Governor. Right now rentals are a non-issue, but when it becomes an issue, we should have guidance from the state.

The CDC recommends that all people in public wear a face covering. Health Director Eldredge feels that the majority of people want there to be a mandate on wearing a face mask, but is not sure who would enforce it. The Health Department receives a large amount of phone calls and e-mails about people not wearing masks now, and there is no regulation. The Health Department could have a local ordinance stated that the Board of Health strongly recommends the wearing of a face covering when out in public.

Mr. Dowgiallo and Ms. Howell agreed that we should have a local ordinance, not a regulation. Ms. Howell suggested having posters make for establishments to post at their entrances, stating that the Board of Health strongly suggests wearing masks in public places.

Ms. Pflieger would like to see a regulation created rather than a local ordinance. Ms. Howell responded that we may want to consider a regulation as we get closer to summer. Right now, we should increase signs to encourage people to wear masks.

Health Director Eldredge stated that we could do a reverse 9-1-1 call to urge all residents to wear face coverings when they are out in public as well as a PSA on Channel 18 and provide information on the town's website. The Board agreed with these ideas.

IV OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS (NO EARLIER THAN 7:00 P.M.)

A. Request for Extension of Board of Health Condition- Request from 21 Plus Smoke Shop, 1421 Orleans Road, to extend the deadline of their approved tobacco application until April 30, 2020

Paresh Patel was present remotely.

Mr. Dowgiallo moved to extend the deadline of the approved tobacco application for 21 Plus Smoke Shop, 1421 Orleans Road, until June 30, 2020, 2nd by Mr. Antoine. The vote was 4-0-0 with Ms. Howell, Ms. Pflieger, Mr. Dowgiallo and Mr. Antoine all voting aye by roll call.

V NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

VI REPORT OF THE HEALTH DIRECTOR (March 2020)

Health Director Eldredge stated that March 2020 was all COVID-19 related. She reported that we did receive funding from the state to cover the majority of our contact and case tracing through the Visiting Nurse Association. Our VNA contract for FY20 is \$4,000 for regular communicable disease case follow up. At the beginning of March, we had about \$1,300 left in the budget and our March bill for COVID-19 only expenses was about \$2,400. Harwich is receiving about \$12,000 in relief funds which should cover our COVID-19 infectious disease tracing bill.

Ms. Howell stated that she was of the understanding that COVID-19 cases are referred to the Department of Public Health. Health Director Eldredge responded that their doctor may refer them to the VNA as well. When a positive test results goes into the infectious disease database, it starts an investigation. Some towns have a public health nurse, however Harwich does not, so we contract with the VNA.

Mr. Dowgiallo asked what the feeling of the Selectmen is with respect to face coverings. Health Director Eldredge responded that the Selectmen are taking guidance from her regarding COVID-19 and that they have been very supportive of her opinions.

VII CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was discussed.

VIII PERMITS

ESTABLISHMENT	ADDRESS	TYPE	TYPE
MOTEL			
A Beach Breeze Inn *	169 Route 28		
Commodore Inn *	30 Earle Road		
Inn on the Beach *	16 Bank Street		
BATHING BEACH			
Belmont Condominium *	1 Belmont Road	Nantucket Sound	
Inn on the Beach *	16 Bank Street	Nantucket Sound	
Old Mill Point Assoc. *	Strandway	Nantucket Sound	
Old Mill Point Assoc. *	Sea Way	Nantucket Sound	
UTILITY INSTALLER			
Peter McIntire and Sons, LLC (2020 New)			
TITLE 5 INSPECTOR			
David D. Flaherty, Jr. *			
FOOD			
A & W *	297 Route 28	61-150 seats	Frozen Dessert
Cape Farm Supply *	1601 Factory Road	Limited Food	
Dockside Seafood Shack	715 Route 28	31-60 seats	
The Family Pantry *		Mobile Food	
The Weatherdeck *	168 Route 28	61-150 seats	
POOL			
Commodore Inn *	30 Earle Road		
Seascapes Condo *	231 Route 28		
* 2020 Renewal			

Ms. Pflieger moved to approve the permits as per list dated March 17, 2020, 2nd by Mr. Antoine. The vote was 4-0-0 with Ms. Howell, Ms. Pflieger, Mr. Dowgiallo and Mr. Antoine all voting aye by roll call.

IX OTHER

No other items were discussed.

X ADJOURN -The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Ms. Pflieger moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m., 2nd by Mr. Dowgiallo. The vote was 4-0-0 with Ms. Howell, Ms. Pflieger, Mr. Dowgiallo and Mr. Antoine all voting aye by roll call.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Clarke

Next meeting is Monday, May 18, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Documents included in April 21, 2020 Board of Health Meeting Packet:

- April 21, 2020 Board of Health Agenda
- Draft Board of Health minutes dated March 17, 2020
- Memo from Health Director regarding COVID-19 dated April 10, 2020
- Board of Selectmen update regarding COVID-19 dated April 9, 2020
- Total number of cases in Harwich dated April 13, 2020
- COVID-19 cumulative cases in Barnstable County dated April 13, 2020

- Statewide curve dated April 13, 2020
- Masks and gloves for general public memo
- Statement regarding employees at essential businesses open to the public
- Request from 21 Plus Smoke Shop dated March 16, 2020
- Any other documents submitted for/at the April 21, 2020 Board of Health meeting