



TOWN OF TISBURY

office of

THE BOARD OF HEALTH

PO Box 666, 66 High Point Lane

Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts 02568

Telephone (508) 696-4290

Fax (508) 696-7341

MEETING MINUTES – May 19, 2020 – 11:00 AM

The Tisbury Board of Health (BOH) held a meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2020, at 11:00 AM.

Due to ongoing efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the meeting was held remotely—Zoom meeting ID: 934 5263 6406; Dial-in: 1-646-876-9923.

Chairman Pratt called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

Commissioners in attendance were Chairman Jeff Pratt and Dr. Michael Loberg, Clerk. Ms. Maura Valley, Health Agent, was also in attendance.

Visitors in attendance were Melinda Loberg, Board of Selectman; Pam Bennett, Human Resources; Louisa Hufstader, Vineyard Gazette; Chiefs Schilling and Leland, Tisbury Fire; John Crocker, Tisbury Harbormaster; Jay Grande, Town Administrator; Jeff Kristal, Board of Selectman.

Items for Discussion:

COVID-19 – Cases

Ms. Valley reported that there are 31 confirmed cases on Martha's Vineyard. She will be issuing a new report showing linked instances and their status every Friday afternoon.

Island health agents, Island Health Care, Quest Diagnostics, MRC, and MVRHS, and Erik Blake, Chief of Police, Oak Bluffs, are working to bring widespread testing to the Island. The format will be like that established for flu vaccination clinics. Screenings will be held at the high school; they will be drive-thru and self-administered for the entire summer season, six (6) days per week. The logistics, including staffing, recruiting volunteers, public safety, establishing priority testing by risk categories, and residence, are still being addressed. The goal is to be operational by the end of May. Antibody testing will not be available at this time.

It is unclear if insurance companies will pay for more than one test per patient, so this is a one-time testing opportunity unless a medical reason for additional testing is presented.

Governor Baker's recent orders –

Ms. Valley reviewed the reopening phases as follows:

Phase 1, effective 5/18, allows the continuing operation of essential businesses for manufacturing and expanded construction services. Not much has changed in this phase.

Phase 1/lapse phase, effective 5/25, allows office space to reopen at 25% capacity. Limited personal services and remote curbside pick-up for retail establishments may also open.

Phase 2, effective 6/8, addresses retail, restaurants, lodging, nail salons, and day spas. It is unclear if any transient mooring is included in this phase, as it is not unlike campgrounds.

Phase 3, effective 6/29, addresses bars, casinos, museums, gyms, and other activities.

According to Mr. Crocker, boat charters will be allowed to open on 5/25. Face coverings must be worn, and social distancing applies. Other questions pertaining to harbor management, such as Memorial Day access, the availability of showers, bathrooms, and lodging, and pump-outs, will be discussed at a future meeting between Ms. Valley and Mr. Crocker.

Reopening guidance, effective May 25, 2020 -

Ms. Valley provided a summary of the Governor's guidance for reopening Town offices, beaches, and public restrooms to the Town Administration office and BOH commissioners.

Under Governor Baker's orders, Town offices can be reopened on May 25th. Ms. Valley recommends opening by appointment only until public access is addressed. No more than a maximum of 25% capacity is allowed. She has requested Mr. Seavey's assistance with determining the employee allowance per office. Town employees must complete a self-certification before reporting to work each day. The report format will be determined by Ms. Bennett and Town Counsel and presented to the employees' union for their approval. Workstations need to be separated as much as possible, but in no case can they be closer than six feet. Non-contact means of doing business need to be established when possible, such as installing plexiglass partitions, Dutch doors, etc. High touch surfaces need to be cleaned daily, at least. Adequate cleaning and sanitizing products and supplies need to be provided by the Town for employees to use at their workstations. Signage will be provided by the State and posted as ordered. Public meetings should continue to be held via Zoom.

According to State guidelines for State beaches, transitory activities, such as running, walking, cycling, etc. are allowed if social distancing can be maintained. Passive activities, such as sunbathing, picnicking, etc. are allowed if the beach goer can remain in the towel area and maintain adequate social distancing. Water sports activities allowed are swimming, body and kite boarding, and surfing with adequate social distancing.

Organized ballgames, including volleyball, football, spike ball, soccer, bocce ball, etc. are not allowed.

Groups must be limited in size to a maximum of 10 people and maintain a minimum distance of 12 feet between groups.

No portable grills, campfires, or clam bakes are allowed.

If possible, one-way entrances and exit routes (at beaches and parks) should be designated.

As always, personal responsibility applies.

Masks must be worn when social distancing cannot be maintained.

Public Restrooms—

Public restrooms should be converted to family bathrooms where only one person or group is allowed in the bathroom. A lock or deadbolt should be installed to prevent multiple individuals not in a group from accessing the stalls at one time. Restrooms must be cleaned and sanitized daily, at least. Visual aids for maintaining six feet between individuals wanting to use the bathroom should be installed. According to Mr. Grande, he and Mr. Kirk Metell, have discussed the hiring of a seasonal employee to address these guidelines.

The commissioners support a port-a-potty installation at Tashmoo Beach. The BOS will develop an operational plan. The plan must include daily cleaning by the rental company. Announcements to the general public should be made once Mr. Metell is aware and aligned with the strategy.

Nothing changed for hotels and motels in Phase 1. The original emergency order still applies to lodging businesses. They can rent rooms to first responders, nurses, doctors, or for specific purposes, but not to the general public.

Phase 2 may become effective on 6/8, but confirmation will come from the Governor's office.

Retail stores can be open for remote fulfillment with delivery. They can take phone or internet orders with a contactless delivery method. On May 25th, they can open for curbside pickup for phone or internet orders only. They may not display items for sale on the sidewalk.

Catie's report—

Foodservice establishments are now open for takeout orders from within their premises. Ms. Blake has been working with businesses to transition to the new phase. There are still some who still prefer to offer curbside only.

Ms. Blake will be attending a conference call later today about regulations for reopening camps with kids.

Tisbury resident, Mr. Mac Schilcher stated his concerns about the open raw stormwater drain dumping at the head of Lake Tashmoo via a small wastewater channel with oil slicks and trash. He requested that the BOS and BOH address the issue. Ms. Valley agreed to investigate the matter but asked Mr. Schilcher to send an email outlining the details of his concerns. Commissioner Pratt suggested that Mr. Schilcher request to be on a future agenda for discussion. Commissioner Loberg stated the denitrification program for septic systems (in the Tashmoo and Lagoon watersheds) is going well:

- the NitROE program has moved from the pilot to the provisional stage;
- the ability to remove nitrogen at a cost-effective level has been demonstrated, and
- the State's public health organizations have been very cooperative.

Commissioner Loberg is optimistic about the outlook for preserving our estuaries.

Selectman Loberg echoed Mr. Schilcher's concerns and acknowledged that the area is of significant interest to the groups trying to improve water quality in the Pond; particularly, with stormwater runoff. This system has been in a failed state for some time, and she called for Mr. Metell's inclusion for his area of responsibility. She confirmed that the wastewater planning committee does consider pollutants going into the ponds; however, they are not involved in such acute matters. Mr. Metell, at the DPW, is the primary contact.

With no further business to conduct, the Board of Health commissioners adjourned the meeting at 12:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Soushek
Administrative Secretary

Document(s)

The Board of Health commissioners accept the meeting minutes, dated May 19, 2020, as presented.

Date: 6/30/20 Signed: _____

DocuSigned by:
Michael Loberg
F3A5D8BBD7154EE...

DocuSigned by:
Jeff Pratt
75CB08975228421...