

Lincoln Board of Health
Virtual Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 29, 2020

Members Presents: Frederick Mansfield, MD
Steven Kanner, MD
Patricia Miller

Others Present: Stan Sosnicki, Asst. Public Health Director, Trish McGean, Town Nurse, and
Elaine Carroll, Adm. Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. The next meeting will be on May 13, 2020.

The Commons:

Trish McGean updated the website today and does so every Wednesday. There are currently 25 cases of COVID-19 in Lincoln and there have been no new cases since Saturday with 4 deaths. There have been 12 positive cases at The Commons but one is not a Lincoln resident. So far there have been 4 deaths, 3 have recovered and 5 are in the hospital. The Skilled Nursing unit has been tested with one person testing positive and 15 negatives. The Commons will be testing the Assisted Living units and staff as soon as they receive the swabs. Rey LeBlanc sent a letter out today to the residents. There have been 25 positives among the staff and 11 have been cleared to work of which some work in other facilities as well. The care giver who tested positive was not hospitalized and is doing well. Rey did not join the Monday call because he had the day wrong and thought it was on Tuesday as it was the week before. Jeff Eaton asked where they are with the swabs. We do not know where they are with swabs but they are fine with PPE supplies. Trish said there were 16 in the Skilled Nursing unit who were tested and they were done twice with only the one positive. The priority is to get staff done and she is not sure how many people are in the Assisted Living area. Patricia said that Rey would have to get an authorization form from staff because the test goes back to him as the employer. He is working on getting the authorization. He has connections with Mt. Auburn Hospital and Emerson Hospital for swabs. There have been problems with the testing done by the National Guard and everyone thought Mt. Auburn Hospital was the best. Rey needs adequate equipment to be able to shift people around and had to get permission from Benchmark. They have kept staffing at a level to care for people but if they test positive then they are not coming back to work. They have to shift staff to care for COVID residents because people from agencies will not care for positive residents. Rey will join the group on Monday and she can ask more questions. They are not accepting outside people into their Skilled Nursing unit and there are some people in cottages and apartments. The ones who were positive in the Assisted Living area were not social distancing by having cocktail parties.

Patricia said the Fire and Police are doing fine with PPE and they know which households have COVID-19 positive residents and are using PPE. Stan said that Concord is doing okay and not getting a lot of calls. Trish said they are testing at Care One and other elderly facilities. Care One did have a cluster there but it was done by National Guard.

Masks and gloves:

Stan went to Donelan's this morning and they seem to have done everything he had asked them to do. They are limited to 100 people in the store at a time. Patricia was there on Sunday afternoon and it was not crowded. Masks are being worn but some are only using face shields, which is not a substitute for a mask and should use both. Some feel that the bagging process is a problem and people can bag their own groceries if they wish to. Donelan's also has masks for customers. Fred said maybe there needs to be a sign saying "No shirts, no shoes, no mask, no service".

Should the Board of Health require the use of masks when people go outside? Belmont, Holliston and Needham have implemented town-wide regulations for masks. Holliston's regulations were loose but Needham was very wordy. Should there be a \$300 fine or something like that. Do we have the ability to enforce it? Patricia said that Tim Higgins talked to Chief Kennedy who would be willing to be the enforcement for this, which would be more like someone sees something and gives the police a call and they would look into it. The requirement would be to wear a mask covering of some kind when in public places and outside have a mask available when walking

on sidewalks and trails. Trish said Sudbury has an advisory for masks in public places but not for the outdoors. We could use digital signs, Lincoln Talks, Lincoln Squirrel, signs on stores and reverse 911 to spread the word. Dr. Kanner made a motion to approve the Board of Health promulgating in simple form the wearing of a mask of some kind in all common spaces and to wear a mask around your neck on all bike paths and trails to be able to put it on when encountering people when outside. Patricia Miller seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Tim would like to have some requirement from the Board of Health by Friday at noon. Fred will take on the task of writing the order and will run it by the members for comments and get it to Tim by Friday at noon.

Valerie Fox asked about getting some advice to make sure we acquire what is needed for Town Meeting and the Town elections. Steve said he was not comfortable with common indoor spaces where people congregate for a long time. Common masks are not adequate for this type of gathering and people will be at serious risk. He suggested making this an outdoor event or for voting people could mail in their vote. Valerie said this would be difficult since the State mandates a certain amount of voting booths even if some people have voted by mail or absentee ballots and there would need to be power until 8:00 p.m. The space has to also be ADA accessible and the voter is required to deposit their own ballot into the ballot box. The space at the school will be limited because of construction. Patricia recommended using the Pierce House since they have a big tent set up. Val will check on the ADA accessibility at the Pierce House. She also understands the difficulty especially for volunteers working in 4 hour shifts. The Town election is scheduled for June 15 with elections also in Sept. and the Presidential election in November. Tim will look for younger people to be poll workers, as the usual workers would be at higher risk because of their age.

Elaine Carroll told the members that the April 18 and now May 16 Hazardous Waste Collection dates have been cancelled.

There being no further business, Patricia Miller made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. Steven Kanner seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by Elaine M. Carroll