

Lincoln Board of Health
Virtual Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 13, 2020

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. The next meeting will be on May 27, 2020.

State of the Town Update:

Trish McGean said the Town now has 30 cases as of today with 6 deaths all from The Commons and all of those had underlying medical issues. There are also currently 29 COVID 19 positive staff members. All residents in the Memory Care unit were tested yesterday. They have gotten testing swabs from Benchmark with independent living section to be started soon. The Commons has the residents in their rooms and are looping through the units doing testing. The residents are receiving all 3 meals delivered to their rooms along with any groceries they need. Dr. Kanner felt that they should be tested repeatedly.

Trish said she was informed that anyone testing positive for antibodies must go into 10-day isolation with contact tracing. People have been real difficult with fighting back and telling her not to call them again. Trish said that all close contacts of positive test should get a PCR test. The State is giving a letter they can take to the test sites. This should be coming from the State probably tomorrow. Some people did the test for fun and shouldn't ask the question if they do not like the answer. She will be putting something on the website that if you get an antibody test you should know the consequences. It takes a lot of man hours to follow upon on the tests. The guidelines change and she hopes they will change if the PCR test takes 10 days to come back then there is the isolation.

Face Covering Compliance:

Chief Kennedy sent an e-mail stating that since May 6 they have had three complaints. One regarding a cyclists on Mill Street not social distancing with no mask, one regarding a hiker on the trails not wearing a mask or social distancing, and one where a customer entered an establishment without a mask that resulted in a very brief verbal altercation with the violator leaving the premises. We received no complaints over this past weekend. From our observations, it appears members of the public are complying with the Governor's order. As always, I am sure there are some outliers. Dr. Mansfield said he did not see anyone who did not have a mask on, which may be because of the threat of a \$300 fine. It is simpler that this is State wide and not just the BoH.

Town Meeting and Town Elections:

Tim Higgins said that if the stay-at-home order is lifted on May 18 by Gov. Baker, the Town will have to have the Town Meeting within 30 days under State law and the closest Saturday to that would be June 13 with the election on June 15. There is a team handling logistics with essential items being financial warrants and most controversial item being the school budget. There should be ample presentations available before with all warrant articles prepackaged on cable and website. The Hartwell parking lot is the most logical location because of the level surface making it ADA compliant with bathrooms available in Hartwell and the Pods. There would be a large tent and weather permitting some chairs outside the tent. We would want to consider public health but are under State law to have it 30 days after Gov. Baker's announcement. Voting for Town Meeting has to be in person but for the election you no longer need to meet strict criteria and COVID-19 has made it possible to vote by mail. We do have to open the polls for a minimum of four hours and that could be a risk for poll workers with seniors being the most vulnerable. Valerie Fox, Town Clerk, will look for younger poll workers and be sure that they all have the necessary PPE materials. The election would also be held in the Hartwell parking lot using the same tent. When called, the State discouraged us from having it outside because of protecting the sanctity of the ballot counts. If necessary the ballots can be counted manually. Dr. Kanner felt that the unventilated bathrooms may present a hygiene problem along with reminding people to wash their hands. Tim said they would assign

staff to be there to remind people to wash their hands and also to wipe down the facilities. Hopefully they will need only minimal use. Tim will check with facilities for use of fans to ventilate the bathrooms. Steve suggested that portable toilets may be better ventilated and bathrooms in trailers used for weddings may be even better.

Dr. Kanner asked Tim if the Town can do testing for the residents as a service to the Town. Quidel Co. has a machine that could be rented and possibly get any cost reimbursed. Dr. Kanner said that this is done in Cambridge. Tim said that he would speak to other town managers to see if any of them are doing this. Stan said there could be logistic and manning problems and waiting for people to show up. It would be better to do it on a regional basis to get more people. Patricia Miller said that Newton Wellesley has lab printers set up to make sure that all tests are labeled properly and a lot of manpower is needed to set everything up.

Tim said that the Town Offices would be opened using best practices and is talking with department heads. There would be physical modifications to the building using glass partitions and proper PPE made available. There has been very little resident interaction now with bill paying on line or by mail and has received comments from residents about how promptly the employees have been dealing with the public. Tim will see what happens next week with Gov. Baker's announcement but no one thing fits all. Park & Rec did a survey on line with a deadline of May 14 to see the feeling of the Town about having camp and will the pool be open. The Library, COA and Town Offices will be rethinking how we do business and will come back to the Board of Health and Selectmen for input. The Selectmen will be forming a committee of six or seven consisting of School Committee, Water Board, Library, COA and him and would like a representative of the Board of Health to be on the committee. He is thinking that it will be a grass root making decisions and getting feedback. Patricia said she would not mind continuing as the BoH designee and will get back to the Board with any information. Tim will ask the committee what their availability is and whether they want to meet in the morning, midday or evenings and which day is best. Tim said we would need the help of the Board as we get into the nitty gritty of opening up the Town.

Senior Graduation:

There has been frustration among families because they cannot celebrate graduation, but people are being very thoughtful and patient. The 8th grade has decided to cancel all the traditional things like a party at Bemis Hall and possibly planning a drive through the school campus to a stage where the student would jump out of the car and get his diploma and have a picture taken and then a drive through Town. Lincoln-Sudbury is also planning somethings. Tim was contacted by a parent who would like to have something in Pierce Park for the 57 high school seniors from L-S and private schools. Is there some way to gather 57 families with possibly 100 to 200 or more relatives and do this safely? Patricia felt that it would be difficult to safely have that many people who are also planning on food and music and kids running around. Dr. Mansfield also brought up the problem of bathrooms since the Pierce House only has limited facilities. Dr. Kanner felt that having everyone in a separate 12 x 12 block with aisles so they can get in and out and remain a safe distance. There could be a problem if it rains so may need a big tent. Patricia also said that it depends on the maximum number of people that can be gathering by Gov. Baker's order at that time. Tim will go back to the group to see what they can come up with for a plan. Tim said the Town does not have the means to help them out or lend any support. This will all be contingent on what the Governor says on Monday. Tim said some towns have a full paid staff doing the lion's share of the work. You are all volunteers and Trish McGean is only part time and you are doing a terrific job. Dr. Mansfield asked if anyone had any comments and Jeff Eaton of 8 Storey Drive said he wanted to thank everyone for the terrific work they are doing.

At 9:00 PM, Patricia Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steven Kanner seconded the motion. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Submitted by Elaine Carroll