

Lincoln Board of Health
Virtual Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 27, 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 June 10, 2020.

Discussion Regarding Exercises for COA:

Carolyn Bottum of the COA came before the members to discuss doing outdoor exercise classes for seniors at the COA. Because of Gov. Baker's statement that if you are 65 you should continue to stay at home, she wanted to get the opinion of the Board of Health. Carolyn said the COA was doing exercise classes by video and on Zoom and wanted to know if these classes could now be held outside with strict guidelines. She said that some neighboring COA offices have decided not to do them. Dr. Kanner said if you use social distancing and wear masks it should be no difference than walking on trails or outside. Patricia said during weekly calls with Boards of Health, last week they were not in favor but today those types of classes can be done with proper precautions. The Board saw no problem with holding outside exercise classes as long as there are no more than 10 participants and they remain 6 to 12 feet apart.

State of the Town Update:

Trish McGean said the Town is holding their own with 34 cases up 2 more cases since last week. The Commons did 154 tests and all were negative. Every room they went through was happy to see them. They have been in quarantine and receiving their meals in their rooms. Testing capability has increased. Assisted Living and Memory Care testing control is what Rey is concentrating on. In the last two weeks at the Commons, there was one more positive and one more death. There have been 7 deaths in Lincoln and all of them have been at the Commons. They are testing staff through Mt. Auburn Hospital and residents through Emerson Hospital. The total so far is 16 positives, 7 deaths, 6 recovered, 3 hospitalized and 31 associates positive. For antibody testing you needed to isolate for 10 days but the CDC guidelines now says you do not need to isolate and can go to work. Dr. Kanner wanted to know how time consuming the testing was with how many people and how many hours. Trish said that each team had 4 people working 4 hours for 2 days with pre-printed labeled specimens. Trish said it was exhausting but the residents were very appreciative.

Face Covering Compliance:

Chief Kennedy sent an e-mail stating that the Police Dept. has received no formal complaints regarding compliance with the face covering order since the last meeting. During this time there has been an increase in pedestrian and bicycle traffic throughout Town. From their observations, it appears that the vast majority of the public are complying with the Governor's order. As always, I am sure there are some outliers.

Re-opening of Town Buildings:

Tim Higgins said he appointed a re-opening and planning committee for the Town buildings. The first meeting was yesterday to make sure we are following the Governor's orders for re-opening different Town buildings. Decisions are being made in real time with changes being made every week. They are relying on goodwill and good judgement for making decisions. There will be operational control at departmental levels and looking to State and other towns for guidance. There will be some local discretion and will consult with the BoH for guidelines. The Town Offices has 12 departments and 30 employees. The Dept. heads will be starting on June 1 with plans for precautionary measures with plexi glass added to department counters, no use of water coolers and coffee makers and proper PPE equipment used. For the time being, Zoom meetings will continue. Our main concern is to keep employees safe. If any staff is compromised or has a family member who is, they may prefer

to continue working from home. On June 8 all staff will be back and on June 15 we should be open to the public in a restrictive way.

Bemis Hall will be a challenge because it is the building where clientele is the most vulnerable but they are eager to be getting back to it. The Library is important but not an essential use. They are not eager to get back to book lending and the best practice would be curbside services. From a financial standpoint, the Pierce House depends on the wedding business. Brides are more eager to take a chance, but the Town may not be eager to do so. The role of the committee is to not stand in the way but we need to keep health issues in mind. Park and Rec's biggest challenge is to keep up with the State guidelines which seem to be changing day by day. We also have to address any complaints from people as things start opening up. We will do our best to re-open the Town in the safest way possible

Tennis Courts:

Dan Pereira, Director of the Park and Rec asked the Board for feedback on re-opening the Town tennis courts. Dan said the Governor technically opened tennis courts on May 25, but he is told that the State is one guideline but the Board of Health is another. Patricia said according to DPH athletic fields, tennis and pickle ball can open as long as people social distance with no sharing of equipment, staying a distance from people playing, no tournaments, and post the guidelines. The DPH is not in favor of doubles unless families in the same household. The players need to bring their own tennis balls. Dan said the members can be sent these rules and hand sanitizers will be at every gate. They would be limited to two hours, but this would be on the honor system, since there will be no monitoring. They would only deal with their own tennis ball and kick an opponent's ball back to them. If you are sick, you need to stay home. They will need to bring their own water since there will be no bubblers. There is a port-a-potty in concrete with hand sanitizer, which will be cleaned nightly and sanitized weekly or sooner. There would be no sharing of food, drinks or towels, no socializing around the court, wear gloves entering and exiting the gate, and told to wash hands after playing. Dan said that membership is down but may see a surge when the courts open. They do have some non-residents as members. There was a question as to whether Lincoln residents are getting fair access to the courts. Dan felt it would be a clearer message if there was a public health issue to close courts to non-residents. If not for a public health issue, it could be a capacity issue with Lincoln residents having preference. Dan will come back for a discussion on summer camp and opening the pool. Potentially Metco children may be out because bussing is out, but families may want to drive their kids to camp. This will be a very different program and not at that point yet. Dan is waiting to hear what guidelines come out. Dan does have a set of guidelines for opening the tennis courts and will forward that on to the members. Steven Kanner made a motion to approve the opening of the tennis courts as discussed at tonight's meeting as long as the written text is consistent with our discussion. Patricia Miller seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

At 8:45 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