

Lincoln Board of Health
Virtual Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 24, 2020

Members Presents: Frederick Mansfield, MD
 Steven Kanner, MD
 Patricia Miller
Others Present: Elaine Carroll, Adm. Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Update from Trish McGean:

Trish said things have been fairly quiet. We have not had a positive case since June 9. The Commons has not had a positive case since May 24. The last associate testing positive was on May 29. They are testing as needed per direction of their medical director. As far as Lincoln is concerned we have 12 probables which are the antibody tests. They have all been asymptomatic in the last 14 days and all had previous illness in Feb. and March. So now we have no one on isolation precautions so that is really fantastic. We are in a really good place right now unlike some other towns around us. She is working with Dan to get the summer camp reopened. They have not had a huge response, but they are hoping and trying to adjust their sales and see what that means. I think tonight is the last night for registration and Lincoln is always late so they may get some tonight. Once that is up and running, she will be reviewing all the kids' medical records to make sure there is no one we need to flag. She will consult with the nurse they hired if this all comes to fruition. She also does camp inspections in the other towns as well so she knows what that involves. Patricia asked if she knew how far away Dan was to making the numbers. Dan said he had to have a minimum number of campers to make it viable for him. Trish spoke to him yesterday and he had 30 campers and hoping for 80, which means they may do one 3-hour session. There is also the possibility of doing an hour drop off to let moms do yoga or go to Donelan's in peace. The directors really hope to do something for the kids and are trying to be very creative. He is not sure where he is yet and if there is a Plan B. Trish will know more after midnight tonight. She will email the members with any updates.

EEE Arbovirus Coordinator:

Patricia sent the slide show by DPH out to the members with an overview of what they were anticipating in terms of EEE. They are going to amp up trying to do better with testing of the traps and what they did last year for aerial spraying and talked about the infection cycle or the transmission. It seems to be June and July is the time when there is escalating interaction with birds and bird-biting mosquitoes and then it would pick up and then spill over into the human transmission usually around August to mid-September. They are just in a tracking phase at the moment. Fred said they had said they were trying to get the turnaround on the testing done faster and also trying to cover more communities that were not covered by the East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project (EMMCP). Patricia said their biggest push seemed to be with community awareness for people to wear repellents, appropriate clothing and to avoid peak mosquito times if possible. They have come out with more marketing materials for communities to post about what you can do from a preventative side. The one thing we had talked about in our meeting last week with Conservation was about the Arbovirus coordinator role. We have two people we can indicate as the coordinators, which is a person from the Board of Health and one from Conservation. Fred suggested reaching out to Tom Gumbart to be on as secondary and then we could reach out to DPH and get him on the list. Fred said he thinks this is going to be just receiving information from DPH.

Patricia said the plan for 2020 from DPH has 5 key areas: 1) communication; 2) maximizing the adoption of personal preventable behavior (PPB); 3) surveillance which is in trapping of the mosquitoes and to drive the use of prevention tools; 4) larviciding, which is a targeted mitigation tool. MDAR is coordinating early in the season with mosquito districts to conduct aggressive targeted larviciding operations; and 5) adulticiding can be used as a mitigation tool upon a decision to spray if we get there. Contractors will have assets and personnel in place within three days with two aircraft for over 250,000 acres. They are getting the troops ready in case they want to do widespread spraying. Fred said the EMMCP has not notified him of any of this. We will have to keep an eye on this. We have never been aerial sprayed here and EMMCP says we are too spread out to do truck-based spraying.

Patricia said there are people in Town who do spraying of their own property for certain pests. The communication with local Boards of Health is such that routine communications would go to the Arbovirus Coordinators through HHAN and individual positive findings in your town will be a call to the Arbovirus Coordinator so you will need to give them your phone number. Non-urgent summary communications will also go to the Arbovirus Coordinator and urgent communications affecting multiple communities will go to all local Boards of Health and HHAN members. It seems they will do a better job of communication this year. The new website Mass.gov/EEE has safety information and marketing material, which we could post on our website. They are going to do more TV and paid social and digital media, a Dept. of Transportation billboard, electronic signage, printed materials and go big on the preventive side which is very smart. Fred said in past years we have put something in the Lincoln Journal and on the website to wear DEET, don't go out between dusk and dawn and get rid of standing water, which are the main things to focus on. Patricia said these things are located on slide 13 of the slide deck. Steve asked if there were any updates on whether the bill on spraying had passed yet. The only update is the one Buzz Constable sent which says there is an amendment that says towns can opt out of spraying. Tom Gumbart was interested in larviciding but it was rejected years ago. Steve asked if we had ever sent a letter to the representatives to say that we were not in agreement with the law that says spraying is mandated. He thought we were going to put a statement out to Tom Stanley. Buzz was going to send out something. The Conservation Commission is interested in protecting the pollinators as others are. You would assume that spraying your own property would create more risk than benefit. Was there ever a Board of Health feeling on an announcement of spraying your own property? Fred said it would be hard to know who was doing it since there is no permit needed and if so it would be done by a commercial contractor and they would have to use approved products. Patricia will come up with something productive on marketing material and send to Elaine to put on the website. Steve said he could write something against spraying your property which can do more harm than good. We are currently in a low risk regarding mosquito danger.

Discussion on the Role of the Board in the reopening regulations for local businesses:

Does the Board need to touch base with any local businesses to make sure they are following the proper guidelines. Our general stance has been that people are complying unless we hear complaints about someone not following the guidelines. Patricia said particularly restaurants and hair salons. Elaine said she was at the hair salon today and they are doing a good job of following the guidelines. With Stan still being out, Gabby White is covering any restaurant inspections. Fred said we did have the e-mail complaining that people were not wearing masks when walking or biking. He wanted more signage around Town. We did have a sign up at Codman Road and Lincoln Road and we should see if Kevin Kennedy would put that back up again with the same language. Steve said you do not need a mask unless you are passing someone and you cannot get 6 feet away from them. Patricia said the general complaint level is very low and most people are doing the right thing.

21 Sunnyside Lane: Because of the e-mail from Oak Ridge Realty, Fred said he went up to 11 Brooks Hill Road today regarding the horse odor and all he could smell was the sweet fern. The Board will keep a log of times that they visit the site in order to keep a record of these findings.

Minutes:

Patricia Miller made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 17, 2020 meeting as written. Steven Kanner seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

At 8:30 PM, Patricia Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steven Kanner seconded the motion. The vote to adjourn was unanimous. The Board will meet again in three weeks instead of two so the next meeting will be on July 15, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. Trish said she would let the Board know if there are any significant changes.

Submitted by Elaine Carroll

Approved: August 5, 2020