

Lincoln Board of Health
Virtual Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 5, 2020

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

Others Present: Trish McGean, Town Nurse; Elaine Carroll, Adm. Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. The next meeting will be on September 9, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Update from Trish McGean:

Trish said we had been doing great but added three new positive cases this week for a total of 44 confirmed cases. There are many people getting antigen testing and we have had six people testing positive but these are not confirmed but coming in as probable. If you get a positive antigen test result, you are still required to quarantine and isolate. People coming back into Massachusetts from states that are not approved need to get a molecular (PCR) test within 48 hours. The ages of the three new confirmed cases are 18, 40 and 50+. We only include PCR tests in our numbers. She is seeing an uptick in cases in the four towns she deals with and those are 18, 19 and 20 year olds. Lincoln Commons is doing well with no new cases. You can get results from an antigen test within minutes and PCR test results takes 7 to 10 days. Trish said for isolation purposes, it does not make sense to wait 7 to 10 days.

Carroll School:

Judi Seldin, Assistant Head of the Carroll School and Danielle Pedreira, Director of Facilities, came before the members to request approval for a sewer connection between the temporary trailer and the existing septic system located within the parking area. The trailer will be used as a COVID-19 testing facility for students and faculty. Students will have their own pods to wait in until a parent comes to pick them up. There will also be a separate area where a student who is injured or sick can wait for pickup. The trailer has its own air conditioning system, ventilation system and air purification system. Susan Rask, Concord Health Director for Lincoln, is on vacation but she sent an e-mail saying that the trailer will not result in an increased design flow to the septic system and recommended that the Board grant approval. Patricia Miller made a motion to approve the request to tie in the trailer to the existing septic system as discussed. Steven Kanner seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Fred Mansfield – aye; Steven Miller – aye; Patricia Miller – aye.

The Carroll School also discussed their plans for re-opening the school. They will be using best practices to keep the students safe on campus by keeping six feet distance in the classrooms and common areas, which is not fun but is safe. They are also thinking of remote teaching or something in between. They will be renting space in the lower level of St. Anne’s Church since Lincoln Country Day is not re-opening. Students can all be in pods of no more than 20 students and teachers. Because of the distancing, they could not fit all of the students in their Baker Bridge campus. The space will be used for two middle school pods where the same protocol will be followed there as well.

Lincoln Youth Soccer:

Matt Mitchell, President of Lincoln Youth Soccer and Dr. Jennifer Gill came before the Board to discuss the re-opening of youth soccer in Lincoln. Mr. Mitchell said they are guided by the State protocol. Soccer is considered low risk because it is a non-contact sport and provides a safe environment for kids while on the field and safe for kids, coaches and parents when off the field. The State has designated it safe for no contact workouts, competitive practice and inter-team games but has not yet approved tournaments. There are about 300 kids from 1st to 8th grade with 40 coaches and parents that help. There will be rules for kids not on the field as well as coaches and parents. There are 25 players allowed on the field and we would have 22. All coaches, spectators and kids not on the field will wear masks, but players on the field will not be wearing masks. There will be no more than 100 total people at the games. The balls will be sanitized and the only time they use their hands is when throwing in the ball. There will be no parents on the field with kids at practice. Snacks and water will be

brought by the kids themselves and not shared. They will track attendance at all events, games or practice with only one person per child at competitive games. Patricia asked if they were keeping names of the parents. Matt said that had not been a requirement of youth soccer but they can take attendance for parents as well, but the other towns would be responsible for their own data. Matt said he would make it a requirement that there is no carpooling to practice or games. Patricia said we need to drive this home to coaches of how important it is to do this safely since adult sports players are testing positive. They need to make sure the kids know if they do not follow the rules, it will be shut down. They will be keeping score but there will be no ranking. The coaches are the link to doing what needs to be done. Matt said they take all suggestions very seriously and do not want to be the point of a problem. The members thanked them for taking this on because kids need these activities for their wellbeing. Dan Pereira said he has coached for many years and it is a lot for one adult to manage and they should think about adding staff to try to keep the kids safe by having 2 adults to police the safety protocol and remind people to keep six feet distance and wear masks. The Board said their role is to give you advice.

Birches School Re-opening:

Peter Twadell of the Birches School came before the members to discuss the protocol for re-opening. Peter said they have been thinking about the safe environment of the school campus and want to keep kids safe because they go home to parents and grandparents. Peter said instructions will be primarily outside and they are installing multiple tents for grade levels. The inside use of the facility will be limited to the use of assigned bathrooms or in case of inclement weather. The indoor space will be divided by grade pods using separate doors with no universal common entrance. When using the indoor classrooms they will meet or exceed spacing guidelines for students and faculty. Windows will be open during the day to facilitate fresh air flow and window fans will be installed in every classroom and the filters for the main HVAC system will be upgraded. They will be planning on lots of outdoor activities like soccer and hiking trails. The kids will be doing social distancing and wearing masks at all times. We need to renew or create new bonds with teachers in case we need to go back to remote learning. They will stagger drop offs in the morning with 20 minute intervals and parents will stay in their cars. The parents will need to fill out a form at home before they drop off the children to show that their child is healthy. There will also be a staggered dismissal. If you go first in the morning then you go first in the afternoon. When the weather gets colder, there is an enclosed outdoor garden which is a quiet space and teaching space. Fred said he applauded the work they have done to re-open the school and being able to have indoor space after the weather gets colder. Patricia said to let the Board know if we can be of help and told Peter to text the Board if anything changes.

Complaint Template:

Patricia said the DPH has a template for anyone in Town who wants to issue a complaint of no masks or distancing. Do we want to publish this on the website and if so who gets the complaint, the State or the Board. The Town does not have an enforcement arm. If the complaint goes to the State would we be notified? We need to get more clarification on this. Local boards of health have the authority to close down something. It should be left to the local boards to fine or close an event.

Food Truck Event:

Patricia said she attended the food truck event on July 31 and people said it was a lot of fun and they enjoyed it. There seemed to be some issues as well. There was no check in at the entrance to ask if you had signed up for the event and how many people were in your car and this was for the entire event. There was no contact information taken for tracing if someone were to come down with COVID-19 and there were more than 100 people there. Victoria Otis said her staff could not attend and she was left doing the entire event herself. There was no social distancing or masks at common places. Victoria said going forward she would make sure her staff is available and keep to no more than 100 people at any one time. The Board suggested having 2 hour intervals with people wearing wrist bands and they have to leave when their time slot is over and the next group of people is then allowed in. There should be someone there to remind people to wear their masks and social distance unless on a blanket with people they live with. Victoria said she has learned from this first event and would correct what did not work. People there asked her to do the event every Friday but she said it was too much work. Dan thanked the Board for the debriefing and said it was more than they had expected.

Update on EEE and West Nile Virus:

There has been one case of EEE in a boy in Middleboro and both Middleboro and Carver have moved to critical. There was also a mosquito in Belmont that tested positive for West Nile virus. In an e-mail from Brian Farless of East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project, he said they have increased the amount of traps and testing. There have been no positive mosquitoes in Lincoln. The Conservation Commission and LLCT want to be involved before the Board decides to do any spraying of the fields as was done last year after a Sudbury girl tested positive to EEE. People can do ground spraying on their own property but we do not know who might be doing it because there is no permit required. There is something on the website to remind people to use DEET, cover up and do not go out between dusk and dawn to avoid the busiest time for mosquitoes. We might think about a Reverse 911 again. There are some people who want to do aerial spraying but others are against it. Towns can opt out if the State decides to spray all areas, but do we have anything we need to do to opt out of large scale spraying.

Minutes:

Steven Kanner made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2020 meeting as amended and the minutes of the July 15, 2020 meeting as written. Patricia Miller seconded the motion. Roll Call: Fred Mansfield-aye; Patricia Miller-aye; Steven Kanner - aye.

At 9:50 p.m. Patricia Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steven Kanner seconded the motion. Roll Call: Fred Mansfield-aye; Steven Kanner – aye; Patricia Miller-aye.

Submitted by Elaine Carroll