

Lincoln Board of Health
Virtual Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 11, 2022

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

Others Present: Trish McGean, Town Nurse; Melanie Dineen, Concord Health Director; Dan Pereira, Asst. Town Administrator; Elaine Carroll, Adm. Asst., Buzz Constable and Michelle Barnes, LLCT

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. The next meeting is on June 15, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. The members welcomed Melanie Dineen as the new Health Director for the Concord Board of Health.

Software for Food Inspections:

Dan Pereira discussed the FoodCode-Pro contract for food inspections. This will not cost the Town any fees since it is a regional grant between Lincoln, Concord, Carlisle, Sudbury, and Bedford. This will need the Chair to sign the contract and then it goes to the Select Board for final approval. The license for the food inspections will be with Concord but Lincoln needs to join so that there is a place for the information to be stored. This is an entirely free service and if the grant should run out, Lincoln would have an option to drop the service with 30-days notice. The information is stored in the Cloud, and Dan said there are many cloud-based reports in Town already. Lincoln will need a username and password to view the reports. The reports are public record, but the public cannot access the report directly from the Cloud. Patricia Miller made a motion to accept the contract from FoodCode-Pro. Steve Kanner seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Patricia Miller-aye, Steve Kanner-aye, and Fred Mansfield-aye.

Update on COVID-19 Cases

Trish McGean said COVID continues with Massachusetts up 7.89% and the wastewater is accurate when predicting an upward trend. PCR cases for last week were 22 with 9 in the last 7 days in Lincoln. Concord and Carlisle also showed marked increases. Antigen test cases have been coming through, but Trish does not count them. DPH says multiply by 14% for the total cases when adding the antigen tests. Trish said a lot of this is from travel and family gatherings and it is spreading through families with a 20-week old baby getting it from the parents. DPH said there has been a big spike in the 20 to 29 age group. Trish also said some symptoms lately include rashes and illnesses are a little more severe than six weeks ago because of the new variant. The schools are having gatherings with proms and graduations. Becky McFall said the schools are not expected to institute a mask mandate unless they hear it from DPH, and DPH is pushing it back to the local Boards. Trish said some people are taking Paxlovid, which is helping them. The schools are saying kids need to stay home for 5 days and need to test negative before going back to school. Steve Kanner said the ICU and deaths are still down. Fred Mansfield said it is the Board's attitude to stay with the recommendation to wear a mask when indoor public places and to update the website and Lincoln Talks with the recommendation to continue wearing masks indoor public places until the middle of June.

Process to Opt-Out of Mosquito Spraying for Municipalities:

According to the State, Lincoln and the surrounding towns are at high risk for mosquito borne illnesses. Melanie said that Concord would be opting out of spraying. The Board voted in September of 2019 to authorize spraying the perimeter of playing fields and to close all fields from dusk to dawn in response to a girl in Sudbury contracting EEE. In order to opt out of spraying, the Board must provide the State with a plan for at least three educational and outreach activities and secure approval to opt out via certified vote by the local Select Board. Lincoln is part of the East Middlesex Mosquito Control, and they would be setting up mosquito traps and testing for any infected mosquitos and treating catch basins and ditches.

Patricia said several residents in Town spray their own properties, which the Board has no control over. Melanie said if there is a positive case locally the opt out would be voided. Steve questioned how effective aerial spraying would actually be because of the area to be covered. Melanie said she feels that the State thinks it works or they would not do it. The deadline to file for opting out is May 27. Patricia said the Town could send out another

flyer about how to protect yourself from mosquitos and ticks, a Reverse 911 to all residents about protecting themselves and have a forum where an entomologist could talk about the risks and benefits of spraying. Fred said he could write up a letter listing those three activities and submit to the Select Board for their approval, and then the plans would be subject to the approval of the Energy & Environmental Affairs (EEA). They may or may not approve it based on the fact that we are in a high risk area. Melanie said Gov. Baker signed a more restrictive State mosquito control, which is forcing this opt out and making it harder because they want you to spray. Buzz Constable said the State map places about 80% of the State in the higher risk category because they took it from wherever there has been a history in that town or an adjacent town for EEE. If the Town had a mosquito test positive for EEE, Fred said the Board would do the same as last time and spray the perimeter of the playing fields and close the fields from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m..

Patricia Miller made a motion to approve having Fred Mansfield write a letter to EEA for the opt-out process for mosquito spraying in the Town and submit that to the Select Board for a vote at their next meeting. Steve Kanner seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Steve Kanner-aye, Patricia Miller-aye, Fred Mansfield-aye.

Minutes:

Steve Kanner made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 13, 2022 meeting as written. Patricia Miller seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Steve Kanner-aye, Patricia Miller-aye, Fred Mansfield-aye.

At 9:00 p.m. Patricia Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Kanner seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Steve Kanner-aye, Patricia Miller-aye, Fred Mansfield-aye.

Submitted by Elaine Carroll

Approved: June 15, 2022