



Town of Boxford

Meeting Minutes of the Board of Health

March 16, 2020

Present: Richard Fahrner, Richard Taylor, Heather Forand, Alex Constan, Hans Jeppesen, Heather Forand (remotely), Public Health Director Kendall Longo (remotely), Joan Fitzpatrick VNA (remotely), Chief Jim Riter

Absent: None

Meeting called to order at 6:30 by R. Taylor

Updates:

- **COVID-19 Update:** R. Taylor announced there were three confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Boxford. Another is presumed, but he expects it will be confirmed, for a total of four cases. Taylor added there were many restrictions already in place, noting that the stores are closed except for takeout, the schools are closed, the Council on Aging has closed. No gatherings of more than 50 people are allowed, and he expects that number will come down.
- **First Responders' Safety:** R. Taylor began a discussion on the safety of First Responders, noting that he's trying to persuade DPH to release those addresses to the Board of Health. Referring to a letter R. Fahrner received from the DPH regarding the HIPAA law, it seemed clear that the local Board of Health should be notified of the addresses of the cases in town. He will continue to attempt to get that information. Chief Riter was present and provided the procedures the police and fire department personnel are using to avoid contracting the virus, including the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Joan Fitzpatrick of the VNA was also in attendance (remotely) and provided additional information to the Board on COVID-19 testing and first responder protocol for responding to possible COVID-19 related calls. She is following up on any COVID-19 cases in town, calling them and getting updates on their health, and providing quarantine/isolation protocols. A lengthy discussion ensued on the availability of PPE for first responders. The Public Health Director provided information on the PPE she had available.
- **Care of the Elderly:** R. Taylor began a discussion on the care and safety of the town's elderly population, noting that he's been in touch with the Director of Senior Services as well as Michelle at Four Mile Village. Chief Riter provided the Board with information on the food collection and distribution program his department is providing, in conjunction with the Council on Aging, for seniors and anyone who is unable or unwilling to get out to shop for groceries. There was a question on whether Meals on Wheels is still operating. The Public Health Director will follow up and report back to the Board.

- **Questions/Updates from the Town Administrator:** R. Taylor read aloud some of the questions the Town Administrator sent to the Board of Health for clarification/comment:
 - **Playground Equipment is Not Sanitized:** Playgrounds have been posted with signs warning that the equipment is not disinfected. Is there anything more the town should do? After a brief discussion, the Board decided that the signage was enough warning.
 - **Tertiary Contact with the Virus:** After a committee member had contact with someone who had contact with someone else who ultimately tested positive for the virus, should those committee members and anyone else who attended that meeting be quarantined? After a brief discussion, it was determined that the Department of Public Health does not recommend quarantine for tertiary contact, but the Board of Health suggests quarantine for 14 days.
 - **Coronavirus Internet Rumors:** Will the coronavirus disappear with the warm weather? The Board of Health doesn't know and suggests waiting it out and see what happens as the outside temperature increases.
 - **Quarantine Follow Up:** Is the Board of Health following up with currently afflicted residents who are in quarantine? The Board has not been made aware of the names/addresses of residents who have the virus. Joan Fitzpatrick, the representative of the Board of Health for the VNA, advised that she has been made aware of all current Coronavirus patients in town and is in telephone contact with them daily.
 - **Should the Recycling Center be Closed?** Due to the exchange of money that takes place there, should the Recycling Center be closed? After a brief discussion, the Board of Health decided that the Recycling Center should close temporarily.
 - **Trash Sticker Purchases:** If residents have trash stickers, they should continue to use them. If they do not have them, they won't have to use them temporarily. Stickers are still available for purchase at the stores in town, as well as Nasons.
- **Town Hall is Closed:** The Public Health Director provided information to the Board on the Town Hall closure, noting that the Department Heads are working on a plan to continue to serve the public from a distance. She is available by email at klongo@town.boxford.ma.us to anyone who may have questions or concerns.
- **Ticks are Out:** H. Jeppeson reminded everyone that ticks are out and to check for ticks after going outside.

Adjourn

With no further business, on a **MOTION** made by **Constan**, second by **Fahrner**, the Board of Health **VOTED** to adjourn at 7:18PM.

Respectfully submitted via video posted online at:
<http://www.boxfordcabletv.com/dnn7>



Judith A. Stickney
 Minutes Secretary