

MARBLEHEAD BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES, October 6, 2020

Present: Chm. Todd Belfbecker, Helaine Hazlett, Michelle Gottlieb, Andrew Petty, Director

Also Present: Dr. Tom Krueger (League of Women Voters), Sarah Gold (Chair of Marblehead School Committee)

Web-based video conferencing meeting of Board of Health via Zoom.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM

MOTION to approve meeting minutes of September 29th as amended. All in favor and motion passed.

Andrew stated there have been 276 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Marblehead and no recent deaths. On October 5th there were 454 reported cases in Massachusetts. The total amount of cases for the state is 133,059.

The state is now entering Phase 3 Step 2 of reopening. This phase applies to a select and limited low risk activities and businesses. This excludes cities and towns that have been in the red zone for COVID-19 cases. Marblehead is currently in the green zone but may soon approach to the yellow zone based on projected trends.

Andrew read aloud Halloween guidelines for Marblehead. See attachment. The Board would like the guidelines to be in the local paper and the town website. A code red will also be made to residents. Sarah Gold will share the document with the schools who could then share with parents.

MOTION to approve the Halloween guidelines presented and give Andrew Petty creative approval for editing. All in favor and motion passed.

Town Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 17th at 9am.

The Board drafted statements for the following articles: Article 25 – Leaf Blowers, Article 29 – Sustainable Marblehead – Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Article 30 – Sustainability Coordinator.

Article 25: The Board of Health does not support Article 25. We have discussed leaf blowers many times over several years and have consistently declined to support a ban.

MOTION to approve language for Article 25. All in favor and motion passed.

Article 29: This article addresses an important issue and supports the well-being of the town and its citizens as there are no immediate financial implications. The Board of Health supports Article 29.

MOTION to approve language for Article 29. All in favor and motion passed.

Article 30: The Board of Health recognizes the importance of the position and would like the Selectmen to investigate this position further.

MOTION to approve language for Article 30. All in favor and motion passed.

MOTION to close meeting. All in favor and motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm

Andrea Flaxer
Senior Clerk

Low Risk Activities

- Carving pumpkins
- Decorating your house or apartment
- Physically distant Halloween Scavenger hunt
- Virtual costume contest
- Watch a Halloween Movie

Moderate Risk Activities and Trick-or-Treating

- Stay home and do not hand out candy if you are sick or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. Keep your lights off so people know not to come to your door.
- Keep your group as small as possible. Groups should be no larger than 10 and stick together, don't mix and mingle between groups.
- Use hand sanitizer before and after choosing pumpkins or picking apples.
- Take it outside. When celebrating with others, do it outdoors.
- Remember the 3 W's!

Wear a mask that's at least 2 layers thick and fits snugly but comfortably over your nose, mouth and chin without any gaps. A costume mask is not a substitute for a cloth mask. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially before eating candy. Or carry and use hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol. Watch your distance by staying at least six feet apart from others.

• Trick-or-Treating Tips

Leave individually wrapped goody bags lined up at least six feet from your door for kids to grab and go. DO NOT hand out candy from a bowl. Go trick-or-treating with your children to make sure they do it safely. Encourage one-way trick-or-treating and wait until other groups have moved on before approaching a home. Wait at least 24 hours before unwrapping and consuming candy.

Higher Risk Halloween Activities

- Traditional trick-or-treat, knocking on doors and reaching into a communal bowl of candy
- Indoor costume / Halloween parties
- Walking through an indoor haunted house
- Group hayrides / tractor rides

*The above guidance is from the Centers of Disease Control (CDC) and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. *As with all family decisions, choose what feels safe for your family this Halloween which includes staying home.