

MARBLEHEAD BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES, June 8, 2021

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

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

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm.

Todd, Helaine and Andrew gave accolades to Michelle Gottlieb who served on the Board for 12 years. Wayne Attridge (retired public health director) also spoke of her great work and dedication to the community. Michelle concluded by saying it was an honor to serve as a board member.

Andrew reported that the last positive case was on May 25th. The vaccination rate in town is excellent with 68% of residents fully vaccinated and 14% have received the first dose.

There are 10 local communities including: Newburyport, Beverly, Salem, Gloucester, Hamilton, Nahant, Peabody, Swampscott, Danvers and Marblehead who are asking local businesses to display signs stating to have a safe summer by wearing a mask or be sure to get vaccinated. This campaign is through the North Shore Coalition.

Andrew read the latest guidelines (that follow CDC recommendations) for summer activities and camps. (See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schoolchildcare/summer-camps.html>). For day camps and activities, those who are fully vaccinated do not need to wear masks, social distance, or quarantine if exposed to a case unless they show symptoms. For those not fully immunized, the recommendations are 3 feet of physical distancing, masks while indoors, cohorting of children, limiting of nonessential visitors, etc. Counselors who are fully vaccinated do not need to wear masks, but may do so to set an example for younger campers. Marblehead will have four camps open this year.

Michelle stated the mental health task force met last week. The committee is still reviewing and mapping things out on how to serve the community. A survey was distributed to high school students which revealed a lot of information on the effects of the pandemic. A similar survey was given to middle school students but the results are not available yet. The next meeting is June 14th at 7pm and will be discussing events and activities for fall season. The meetings will continue to take place biweekly throughout the summer.

Director's Report

Andrew stated that he completed a grant application to DEP. Last year, the department received \$16,900.00 from DEP. These funds will be used for a cardboard compactor, recycling bins etc. The additional grant from the state is a three year service agreement shared with five local communities. These funds will be used for hiring an epidemiologist, grant coordinator as well as for social media and inspections. The town will be observing the Juneteenth holiday on Friday, June 18th. The office and transfer station will be closed on that day. Residential curbside trash and recycling collection will still occur on Friday. The transfer station will be opened regular hours Thursday June 17th and Saturday June 19th.

Todd opened up the meeting to public participation.

MOTION to close meeting. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Mrs. Hazlett, in favor; Ms. Gottlieb, in favor; Dr. Belfbecker, in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Andrea Flaxer
Senior Clerk