

MARBLEHEAD BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES, June 29, 2021

Present: Chm. Todd Belfbecker, Helaine Hazlett, Joanne Miller, Andrew Petty, Director
Also Present: Dr. Tom Krueger (League of Women Voters)

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

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm.

MOTION to reappoint Dr. Todd Belfbecker as the chairman of the Board of Health. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Mrs. Hazlett, in favor; Ms. Miller, in favor; Dr. Belfbecker, in favor.

MOTION to reappoint Helaine Hazlett as the vice-chairman of the Board of Health. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Ms. Miller, in favor; Mrs. Hazlett, in favor; Dr. Belfbecker, in favor.

MOTION to appoint Joanne Miller as communication officer of the Board of Health. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Mrs. Hazlett, in favor; Ms. Miller, in favor; Dr. Belfbecker, in favor.

MOTION to approve meeting minutes of May 25th as submitted. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Mrs. Hazlett, in favor; Dr. Belfbecker, in favor; Ms. Miller, abstain.

MOTION to approve meeting minutes of June 8th as corrected. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Mrs. Hazlett, in favor; Dr. Belfbecker, in favor; Ms. Miller, abstain.

Andrew reported that there are no new cases of COVID-19 in town. The vaccination rate in town is excellent with 13,927 (83%) of residents fully vaccinated and 1,897 (11%) have received the first dose. On Thursday, July 1st those who have been vaccinated can register at mass.gov for the Massachusetts VaxMillions Vaccine Lottery. There will be a drawing of \$1 million for those >18, and a scholarship will be awarded in the amount of \$300,000 for <18 once a week for five weeks.

He also discussed the breakthrough cases that were contracted after vaccination. In Massachusetts there have been 4,034 with over 4 million vaccinated, which represents less than 0.1% on a state level. A total 284 were hospitalized (7% of the breakthrough cases) and 79 deaths occurred.

DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) provided an update to schools about facial covering indoors and safety requirements. As of 6/19 people in schools are encouraged to wear masks for the remainder of the school year. Also, masks are recommended for all attending summer programs. In the fall all mask and COVID safety precautions are to be lifted and future guidance will be made in coordination with the MA DPH.

Joanne stated the mental health task force met on June 28th. The committee is still reviewing and mapping things out on how to serve the community. Ben Day discussed partnering with the Marblehead Female Humane Society to help receive grant money. A technology team is being formed to connect with people who are in need. Future topics include: speaker series, working with others in the faith community, and reaching out to the needs of children returning to school. The next meeting is July 12th at 7pm. Helaine mentioned the Children Friends and Family Services series of courses – Mental Health Summer of Support (SOS) that is free which began June 22nd and continues through September 14th. This program provides tips for parents, family needs and awareness on thoughts and behaviors.

Director's Report

Andrew stated beach water sampling has begun. Gashouse Beach has recently tested high in contamination due to the recent rain with runoff draining into the ocean. This resulted in closure of the beach until it is retested and deemed safe for the public to swim.

The transfer station completion is proceeding forward on the location for the scale and scale house as well as plans for the swap shed. The flow of traffic both entering and exiting the transfer station is being revamped.

In 2014 at the Town Meeting, Article 29 was passed banning the use of polystyrene containers for food containers, etc. An exemption at the time was given to the school for use in the lunch rooms with the idea that this would be temporary. Since then, the schools have continued using the polystyrene trays. Discussion then followed about banning the use of these trays. This could be done by amending the by-law, and would require a public hearing. Todd will speak to the superintendent and school committee chair.

Todd opened up the meeting to public participation.

MOTION to send retiring police chief Bob Picariello commendation from the Board of Health. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Mrs. Hazlett, in favor; Ms. Miller, in favor; Dr. Belfbecker, in favor.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 10th at 7:30pm. Beginning in September the Board will return to in person meetings at the Mary Alley.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Andrea Flaxer
Senior Clerk