

MARBLEHEAD BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES, April 5, 2022

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 7:30 pm. The following roll call was taken: Ms. Helaine Hazlett, present; Ms. Joanne Miller, present; Dr. Todd Belfbecker, present.

Chairman Belfbecker asked for a moment of silence on the recent passing of high school senior, James Galante.

Andrew reported that as of April 1st the total amount of COVID-19 cases are 3424. In past two weeks 52 active cases and 4 probable cases. The age breakdown of cases was as follows:

0-4yrs old – 4
5-11yrs old – 11
12-19yrs old – 19
20-29yrs old – 3
30-39yrs old – 7
40-49yrs old – 4
50-59yrs old – 5
60-69yrs old – 15
70-79yrs old – 3
80+ - 2

Andrew stated the CDC following FDA recommendations suggested mRNA boosters for those who are immunosuppressed or over the age of 50, and who had had a booster more than 4 months ago. Those who were vaccinated with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and for whom it was more than 4 months ago could also be vaccinated with the mRNA vaccine. The town will be holding a clinic in late April for booster vaccinations. It is still recommended to use a rapid COVID test before attending a large gathering.

Joanne gave an update on the Marblehead Mental Health Task Force. The task force is responding to the mental health concerns of families and others and is getting assistance from high school, Riverside Trauma Center, etc. A program is planned for April 6th at the high school. The discussion to take place is the grieving process and other resources in the aftermath of the recent tragic death of a high school senior. The discussion will be taped by MHTV. Live streaming and the MHTV tapes will be available - see marbleheadcares.org. Another program is planned for May 5th with the focus on mental health needs and challenges of seniors and their adult children. Sharon Doliber will moderate and tools and resources to guide.

Danelle Joyce of 17 Haley Road came before the Board to discuss the fowl permit process. She presented the numerous beneficial reasons for having chickens i.e.: fresh eggs, self-sustaining, support pets, good for the environment. She said the chickens are only hens, and as to noise at 25 feet away chickens are no louder than a normal human conversation. She said smell and rodents are also not an issue. She wasn't happy with the process which currently requires that all abutters must agree, and without that the petitioner is not even allowed a hearing. Of all the abutters (5), only one had not agreed. She said the surrounding towns do not require a sign off by abutters and only 3 towns require notifying the abutters. She concluded

stating current process in town seems unreasonable. Yael Magen, Esq. representing the Joyce family stated there are no laws thatto require abutter's approval. The Board decided to this discussion at the next meeting.

Transfer Station Discussion

Option B will consist of the following: new scale house, redo of the existing pit structures, new swap shop, new staff facility. This can be completed with the existing funds. It will be completed within a year. Traffic will be eliminated with the use of Green Street entrance and exit through Woodfin Terrace. No parking inside for equipment.

A meeting was held on March 24th with the Arnold Terrace residents. Joanne listened to their concerns. Mr. David Lieberman of 5 Arnold Terrace submitted a four page letter to the Board regarding the use of Green Street.

Todd stated he would like a traffic study done for Option B. The cost for a traffic study would be approximately \$8-10 thousand dollars.

Helaine has gone up to the transfer station and stated the employees are satisfied. Andrew wants the employees to be happy and safe. The trailer is designed to be a temporary structure. Replacing the trailer would result in closing the transfer station for a week. The cost to replace the trailer would be approximately \$4000.

Todd opened the meeting to public comment only relevant to the transfer station. The following citizens offered comments:

James Full – 21 Cheever Avenue
David Lieberman – 5 Arnold Terrace
Tom McMahon – 1 Gregory Street
Angela Ellis – 119 A Green Street
Jeanne Lambkin – 19 Devereux Street
James Full – 21 Cheever Avenue (fowl permit process)
Mark Fowler – 22 Arnold Terrace
Jeremy Bumagin – 7 Arnold Terrace
Sean McHugh – 26 Peach Highlands
Michelle Perchet – new home on Green Street –address not given
Richard Fosler – 4 Arnold Terrace
Pamela Feliz – 143 Green Street
Benjamin Neiditz – 153 Green Street
Terri Tauro – 113 Jersey Street

MOTION to approve Option B to complete transfer station with respect to having a traffic study done and current plans may change. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Ms. Joanne Miller, in favor; Mrs. Helaine Hazlett, in favor; Dr. Todd Belfbecker, in favor.

Todd commented that Marblehead has one of the best transfer stations in Massachusetts and Option B is a fiscally responsible decision and no doors will be closed.

MOTION to hire a consultant to perform a traffic study as soon as possible. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Ms. Joanne Miller, in favor; Mrs. Helaine Hazlett, in favor; Dr. Todd Belfbecker, in favor.

Director's Report

- Household hazardous waste curbside collection will take place on June 15th.
- SPUR is having a beach cleanup day on April 9th.
- Shrink wrap dumpster is now available at the transfer station.
- The following weeks are scheduled for curbside grass and leaf pickup: 4/25, 5/16, 6/6.

MOTION to indefinitely postpone town meeting Articles 37 and 38. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Ms. Joanne Miller, in favor; Mrs. Helaine Hazlett, in favor; Dr. Todd Belfbecker, in favor.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 10th.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:49 pm.

Andrea Flaxer
Senior Clerk

List of documents used:
Letter- Mr. Lieberman