

Board of Health and Marblehead Charter Committee
Abbott Hall Select Board Room
Meeting Minutes – October 22, 2024

Board of Health Members in attendance: Chair Helaine R. Hazlett, Thomas Massaro, MD., and Tom McMahon
Charter Committee Members

Agenda:

1. Discussion –

Marblehead Board of Health members met with the Town Charter Committee.

Amy Drinker Chair of the TCC asked the BoH to respond the four questions being asked of elected members of boards in the Town:

1) Does the current structure of your department allow you to effectively deliver services to the community?

2) Does the current budgeting process effectively meet the needs of your department?

3) Would you suggest any re-structuring/re-alignment of your department?

4) Any other suggestions?

To question 1) The BoH Chair led the response and provided the TCC with documents regarding the Board of Health as defined by MA general Laws, and the bylaws of the town.

To question 2) There was complete agreement from the BoH members that the budget was very inadequate. MA DPH suggests a public health budget for a town to be approximately \$40/resident. Marblehead BoH budget is less than half that.

To Question 3) There was a discussion of the possibility of moving the Transfer Station to another Town department. BoH members indicated that waste management is an integral part of the environmental public health services as defined by MA General Law.

To Question 4) The BoH members unanimously agreed that the Open Meeting Law a major impediment to efficient function of the Board. It will improve after the Board becomes a five-member board, but it will not solve the problem entirely.