

Board of Health

Meeting Minutes – Helaine R. Hazlett opened the meeting of July 9th, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

Members in attendance: Helaine R. Hazlett, Tom McMahon, Tom Massaro, Health Director: Andrew Petty, Senior Clerk: Martin Flanagan.

Agenda:

Andre Petty opened the meeting -

Motion: To let the speakers from YWCA speak first. Seconded, *Passed*.

1. YWCA Northeast Massachusetts – Hanna Gagney spoke about the assistance that they provide for 29 cities and towns to the survivors of sexual assault ages 12 and up. Discussed Hotline, Psychological assistance, and assistance with rape kit collection services. Department of Public Health is the bulk of financing for this project.
2. Reorganization – Prior to the reorganization Tom Massaro made a few comments on the upcoming year and changes to the board. (See: attached file “Opening Remarks 7924 Tom Massaro”) The change from a 3-member to a 5-member board will allow for the creation of 2 vice chairs – vice chair of community health, and a vice chair of environmental protections. Discussion was made to make Helaine Hazlett Chair with the creation of the 2 vice chairs to be approved. Helaine Hazlett then made a statement about the Board, restructuring, and future plans. (See: attached file “Opening Remarks 7924 Helaine Hazlett”) Andrew Petty asked for a motion for Chairperson. Helaine Hazlett nominated and voted Chair.

Motion: To appoint Helaine Hazlett to Chair. Seconded, *Passed*.

Mrs. Hazlett accepted the gavel and asked for nominations for Vice Chair of Community Health and Vice Chair of Environmental Protections

Motion: To appoint Tom Massaro as Vice Chair of Community Health. Seconded, *Passed*.

Motion: To appoint Tom McMahon as Vice Chair of Environmental Protections. Seconded, *Passed*.

3. Mental Health Task Force – Tom Massaro gave a brief update to the upcoming meeting with new chairperson Mark Libon and that the wellness fair was a hit.

4. Review of Mission Statement – Moved to later meeting
*Review of Mission Statement and Role of Board of Health and Department of Health – Moved to next meeting.

5. Wellness Fair –

Motion: To have Andrew look into a wellness fair event at the community center in January.
Seconded, *Passed*.

6. Substance Abuse Talks/Speakers – Will continue the discussion with the school department for possible project. Possible November evening in the High School Auditorium.
7. Director's Report – Flag Disposal bin installed at the transfer station, a new waste oil tank has been installed and open for use- please check-in with an attendant to get access. To save on costs and lead-times, value engineering and a separate engineering firm have been looking into pre-fabrication options for buildings, pre-fabrication of the scale parts, and ways to have the long-term items on-site for use. This will allow for construction costs to stay as low as possible. Bids for the project should be expected to go out in October where there will be higher interest in a project of this size. Feasibility study is going to be on Construction and Demolition building / use, Sticker cameras, and other items to check for cost/revenue ratios. Bathing beach testing is every Wednesday with results posted on the state website. Please check our town website beaches tab to find the link to the state site. Fiscal 2026 budgets are due September 6th.
8. Public Comment –
9. *Meeting Adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Opening Remarks Thomas Massaro, MD.

Let me make a few comments about the organization and governance of the Board of Health. The coming year has the potential to be a very important transition period for the Board. It should be the year where the Board and the Department of Health finally put the Transfer Station to rest after decades of effort and investments. At the same time this will be the last year of the three-person board. With that in mind, we should do everything we can to make a smooth and positive evolution to that larger board.

In my time here I have been very impressed by how important the concept of self-governance is to this community, and I am even more impressed by the commitment of the many volunteers who give of their time unselfishly to the community in order to support those self-governance activities. Helene Hazlett is one of those extraordinary volunteers. She has served many years on the Board of Health and on other many other committees in the town. She knows the Board, and she knows the town. I stand to nominate her for Chair because I think her years of service and her awareness of the institutional history of the Board can be particularly important in this year of transition.

Helene has one other characteristic which is important to today's election of chair. As far as I know she is the only one of the three of us who is eager to hold that position. Prior to my being sworn in I spoke with Tom McMahon several times. They were good discussions. He is an important advocate for improvements in the Transfer Station and I appreciate his commitment to the Board and the town. However, in our conversations I heard nothing that

suggested he was interested in being chair. I hope I am not betraying confidential conversation, but in fact he asked me if I would be interested in being chair. I told him that given my background and training, I would be honored if at some point in the future, I might be able to serve as Board chair but I'm not well prepared to do that today. I simply don't know the idiosyncrasies of the town well enough, and even more significantly, I don't have as full a sense of the role of the Board in the region and the Commonwealth as I eventually expect to have. Before coming to Marblehead, I served in the Department of Health in New Mexico which is very centralized. It has in effect one centralized Board of Health for the entire state - in marked contrast to the many hundreds of local boards in Massachusetts. Fortunately, I think I am a quick learner and with Helaine, Tom, and Andrew as tutors I should be able to get up to speed in a reasonable time.

Regarding the organization of the Board in anticipation of the move to five members, it is likely that the five-person board will have several subcommittees to share the load. With that in mind, I am proposing that we appoint two Vice Chairs today. Appointing two members with special responsibilities will be a good first step toward that likely subcommittee organizational structure. I am proposing a Vice Chair for Community Health and a Vice Chair for Environmental Protection, but my colleagues may have other suggestions about specific names and duties. And we can modify those overtime as needed.

Thank you, Andrew, for calling tonight's meeting to order. As Board chair, I pledge to continue the important work on behalf of the well-being of all citizens of Marblehead.

I would like to welcome Dr. Tom Massaro and congratulate him on choosing to offer his expertise to our Board and to our community. As we know both he and Tom Mc Mahon have something in common. They both have the same first name and first initials. At times this can be quite confusing! I suggest we address them with their title and last names. I hope you agree, Dr. Massaro and Mr. McMahon.

As you heard the officers of the Board will be structured slightly differently. The first item of business is to appoint the Vice Chairs. I will be asking for two motions – one to nominate the Vice Chair of Community Health and the second motion for Environmental Protection.

This change will allow for each of the nominated Vice Chairs to oversee those areas which fall under the designated topics. With that, I am going to nominate Dr Tom Massaro for Vice Chair of Community Health. Is there a second? All in favor. It is unanimous. I am seeking a nomination for Vice Chair of Environmental Protection. Mr. Tom Mc Mahon has been nominated. I second that. All in favor.

It is unanimous.

With this new structure, the Board will be doing business a little differently. We will be hearing more reporting from the Vice Chairs. Tom Massaro will be addressing more long-range planning and as a member of the Mental Health Task Force, he will be reporting to the Board of Health regarding their meetings. As a physician, Dr. Massaro has the knowledge to keep the Board abreast of the medical issues that he and the director address. Tom Mc Mahon, the Vice Chair of Environmental Protection will meet with the director as needed as the project at the Transfer Station develops to completion.

That said, the chair of the Board and the director will still meet around policies and regulations and will develop the meeting agenda with the input of the Vice Chairs. All agenda items will be submitted to the director will be submitted two weeks prior to the upcoming meeting and will be available to the community at time of posting.