

Harvard Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, April 21, 2020
Approved: 4/28/20

Board of Health Members present: Sharon McCarthy; Tom Philippou, Chair; Libby Levison.

Attending: Alison Flynn, Board of Health (“BOH”) Clerk; Joan Eliyesil & Dan Coit, The Harvard Press.

Mr. Philippou called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Ms. Flynn read aloud the BOH Remote Meeting Preamble, including Confirmation of Member Access, the Introduction to Remote Meeting, and Meeting Business Ground Rules.

PUBLIC COMMENT- Ms. Eliyesil asked whether the DPH reported positive cases for Harvard include Devens residents and prison inmates. Ms. McCarthy responded that she was advised by Mr. Grossman that the positives reported in MAVEN for Harvard include the historical boundaries of Harvard. Ms. Eliyesil indicated that when one of the Harvard Press staff members tested positive and was isolated, NABH asked whether he needed assistance getting pharmacy and grocery delivery. She asked whether NABH would provide those services. Ms. McCarthy advised that Mr. Grossman would be best to answer that question, but believed from the DPH call today that those services are wrap-around services that the public health nurses cannot themselves provide, but can direct the residents to resources for those services. Ms. Eliyesil stated the COA advised that its program is not set up to pair assistance with someone who tested positive. Mr. Philippou suggested that if residents need assistance and NABH cannot assist, the BOH can reach out to the Medical Reserve Corps to find a volunteer. Ms. Eliyesil asked whether Partners In Health have started assisting NABH in contact tracing. Ms. McCarthy indicated that a DPH conference call today explained that people are currently being trained by Partners in Health to participate in the Contact Tracing Collaborative (CTC). She indicated that Harvard will transition to being assisted by CTC at some point, but that time is not yet known. Ms. Levison indicated that her understanding is the CTC has started working in 9-10 cities and are expanding out as more people are trained. Ms. Eliyesil stated that the Harvard Press member who was COVID-19 positive contacted NABH after he was fever free for 3 days and the isolation order was lifted without retesting; she asked if this was typically what happens. Ms. Levison and Ms. McCarthy advised that the state website lists two different ways that isolation orders can be lifted. Ms. Levison indicated that she believes one of the ways is by receiving two consecutive negative tests, and the other includes a combination of counting days from onset and days being symptom free, and that the information is on the [mass.gov/covid19](https://www.mass.gov/covid19) webpage.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Clerk Update- Ms. Flynn reported that she had no updates other than those previously sent to the members via e-mail.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Continued discussion regarding COVID-19 response, preparedness, messaging, and enforcement of the Governor's Order of 3/23/20, including preparation of a Community Resources reference sheet, updates to the FAQ, and consideration of the resources currently posted to the BOH webpage- Ms. McCarthy indicated the Friday morning DPH call covered many issues that larger towns are facing. She also stated that DPH has yet to finalize the First Responder matrix. Ms. McCarthy reported that confusion occurred with the DPH's release of the numbers of positive cases by Town in instances where the released number did not match the numbers released by the Town. She indicated there was discussion about a larger town whose BOH did not include the positives of prisoners in the town, and a smaller town whose numbers were combined with an adjacent town who shared the same zip code. Mr. Philippou stated that the positive case numbers and death numbers are extremely nebulous, and that deaths reported include anyone who tested positive at the time of their death, whether or not COVID-19 was the cause of the death.

The members reviewed and revised the FAQ.

The members reviewed the CDC's "Steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick" information sheet and agreed to post it to the BOH home page, and send it to the COA as a resource.

The members reviewed a draft information sheet regarding response to COVID-19 symptoms prepared by Mr. Philippou and offered comments. Mr. Philippou will revise the draft and send it to Ms. Flynn for circulation to the members.

Ms. McCarthy and Mr. Philippou agreed to review the New York Times article "Is the Virus? My Clothes? My Shoes? My Hair? My Newspaper" and advise Ms. Flynn on whether they support its addition to the BOH webpage.

The BOH members agreed that an additional advisory regarding masks is not necessary at this time.

Ms. Levison advised that she wrote to Jamie Eldridge to ask that as expanded testing is applied, he consider the possible needs of apartment buildings such as Bowers Brook and Foxglove Apartments which house higher risk populations. She noted that she received an acknowledgement of receipt from his office.

The BOH members reviewed the current resources listed on the BOH COVID-19 webpage and decided on revisions. Ms. Flynn will post the updated FAQ once finalized, and will revise and post an updated Board of Health Public Notice regarding the number of cases reported. She will also reorder a few of the items.

Ms. Flynn confirmed she has not received a request from the Select Board to publish the Harvard positive case numbers.

The members stated they all participated in the DPH call today regarding the CTC. Ms. McCarthy indicated that she is concerned that once things start to reopening, contact tracing, which is currently manageable, will become much more important and much more time consuming. Mr. Philippou agreed to contact Jim Garreffo to find out how NABH plans to work with CTC.

b. Action items- Action items from the last meetings were reviewed.

PERMITS- There were no permit applications for review.

MINUTES- Ms. McCarthy made a motion to table the review of the minutes of 4/14/20 until the next meeting; Ms. Levison seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA- Items for the next agenda were discussed. Ms. Levison made a motion to continue the hearing regarding 23 Lovers Lane until the 6/9/20 meeting; Ms. McCarthy seconded. Mr. Philippou suggested Ms. Flynn request written updates from Ms. Thomsen in the interim. All were in favor by roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT- Ms. Levison made the motion to adjourn at 8:18 p.m.; Ms. McCarthy seconded. All were in favor by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Flynn, Clerk

Documents Referenced:

- Agenda
- Draft minutes of 4/14/20
- Revised draft FAQ
- Draft information sheet regarding COVID-19 symptoms