



Town of Oak Bluffs
Board of Health
P.O. Box 1327
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557
508-693-3554 Ext. 127

William White
Chairman

James Butterick
Thomas Zinno
Board Members

Meegan Lancaster
Health Agent

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
March 10, 2020 – MINUTES**

Members Present: William White, James Butterick, Thomas Zinno

Others Present: Meegan Lancaster, Lorna Welch, Jill Robie, Candace Nichols, Doug Hathaway

Chairman White called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

APPOINTMENTS:

- **Candace Nichols – 110 Dukes County Ave, Map 11 Parcel 208 - Owner request for hearing regarding correction order issued under 105 CMR 410.000 State Sanitation code**

Ms. Nichols stated how difficult this has been for her, she was born here and only rents year-round and prides herself on good, secure, safe and well-kept premises. She was accompanied by her caretaker, Doug Hathaway. She stated that she has had trouble with these tenants from the beginning. She is in no way suggesting that Ms. Lancaster did not do her job and she is not questioning anything on the report that she saw or one thing that the tenants told her and she is going to take care of everything. She went on to explain her encounters and situations with the tenants but impressed upon the fact that one of the tenants told her everything was fine with the apartment. Mr. White stated that it seemed to be a personal issue between her and the tenants and we have to deal with the issues found during the inspection. Ms. Nichols continued to explain how the tenants will be vacating the apartment and denied her entry. Ms. Lancaster stated that some of the issues she is bringing up are not germane to the correction order. Ms. Nichols stated that she cannot get into the apartment to address the issues. Ms. Lancaster replied that the order that was issued was referring to the stove which has to be corrected in 5 days and the other issues she has 30 days. She also said she could work with her on the timeframe. Ms. Nichols requested to address each of the violations on the order and how she will correct. The Board reassured her that she had 30 days and if she needed more time we could work with her on that. She requested that the violations order be dismissed if she fixes everything. Ms. Lancaster explained that it cannot be dismissed and that the process would be that she will do a follow-up inspection and give her another letter stating that everything has been taken care of and this would remain on record.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- January 28, 2020 - Approved

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION:

- **Corona Virus Update**
 - **General Messaging**

Ms. Lancaster stated that there are guidance documents on all the town hall websites. There is a sub-group for messaging and Health Agent, Maura Valley, is the representative for the health agents. It was just updated this morning. They have met with the high school twice for general planning purposes and discussed at what point will they decide when the schools could be closed. Ms. Lancaster stated that there is a lot of information out there and it is changing daily. She reassured everyone that the Health Agents are working closely together on this. She also provided the Board and attendees a document of guidance by the CDC for local Boards of Health that explains risk 3/10/2020

assessment (geographic and exposure) and management with potential COVID-19 cases. Ms. Lancaster went through the document and discussed with the Board.

Mr. Zinno asked about the coordination between us and the hospital. Ms. Lancaster replied that she has two meetings per week, Tuesdays and Thursdays, with the hospital. Dr. Butterick explained that there is a very limited amount of tests and the CDC is in control of the testing and giving out test kits to each State. If you want to be tested there is a rigorous criteria that you have to meet. The hospital takes the samples and sends to the Mayo Clinic for testing but you need to get the State Epidemiologist's permission to test. You will get tested for flu or strep before you would test for COVID-19. Currently we have no positive tests on the island.

Jill Robie, CEO of the YMCA attended the meeting to get guidance on how they should proceed especially with the childcare portion. All the YMCA CEO's were advised to get in contact with their local Board of Health for potential suggestions on what to do. Ms. Lancaster recommended general housekeeping measures at this point and will email Ms. Robie some of the guidance documents by the CDC then schedule a meeting with her to go over everything.

Ms. Lancaster explained that all health agents have access to MAVEN for every town so they will know as soon as there is a positive case. She also explained the process for contact tracing when there is a confirmed case.

- **Continuity of Operations Plan**

Ms. Lancaster spoke about succession planning related to COVID-19 and who would step in if she could not continue to do her job. Originally it was Ade (previous Health Agent), then the Chairman, then Board Members, then Administrative Assistant. Would this be the same? The Board replied yes. There also needs to be plans in place for mass casualties.

AGENT / ADMINISTRATION UPDATES:

- **DEP Code Updates**

Ms. Lancaster attended the class. They are working on textile recycling. In general the solid waste in the State is going to continue to get more expensive. A lot of waste in MA is incinerated. Some stuff like asbestos goes to Ohio.

Mr. Zinno made a motion to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Lorna Welch, Administrative Assistant.

DOCUMENTS: CDC Interim US Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Persons with Potential Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Exposures: Geographic Risk and Contacts of Laboratory – confirmed Cases, Island plans in place to address any local implications of COVID-19