



Town of Oak Bluffs
Board of Health
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William White
Chairman

James Butterick
Thomas Zinno
Board Members

Meegan Lancaster
Health Agent

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
May 5, 2020 – MINUTES**

Members Present: William White, James Butterick, Thomas Zinno

Others Present: Meegan Lancaster, Lorna Welch

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

APPOINTMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 3, 2020 - Postponed

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION: Ongoing COVID-19 response

Ms. Lancaster read and reviewed the letter from the hotels, inns, and bed & breakfasts on MV with the Board.

1. The letter was requesting health dept. and fire dept. inspections so they will be ready to open, both of which are currently happening. Since the Governor's orders were extended to May 18th we have pushed out the Lodging inspections to closer to when they are allowed to open.
2. The letter also requests that the BOH follow the Governor's orders without any additional restrictions. Mr. White stated that we are not like any other resort town on the mainland and we do not have the same resources. For those reasons we may have more restrictions. Based on what the Governor's next orders are they may be sufficient for our circumstances but they may not and our main purpose it to protect public health. Mr. Zinno stated that at this point in time we are just depending on what the State does so there is no place for us to make a judgement on any of this. Mr. Butterick stated that the virus will determine all of this, not us. Ms. Lancaster believes we have kept the numbers low because we have taken more aggressive action.

AGENT / ADMINISTRATION UPDATES:

Ms. Lancaster explained that they are looking for a different location for Town Meeting which is usually held at the Performing Arts Center at the High School. The Tabernacle is being considered and Ms. Lancaster, Chief Blake and the interim Fire Chief are going to do a walk about to see if all the guidelines and be met for safety and social distancing. Ms. Lancaster suggested that the High School football field may be a better choice because parking will be an issue at the Tabernacle and some residents have already expressed concern about having that many people come into the Campgrounds.

The Red Cross is looking to hold a very small, very controlled blood drive at the High School on Thursday because there is critical shortage of blood right now because people are not donating. They are planning to hold it in the gymnasium which has two doors and would allow for a one way flow of traffic. There are also bathroom facilities that could be segregated from the rest of the building.

Ms. Lancaster stated that the Return to Work inspections are going well. Garrett has done about 50 inspections. He will also start doing some re-inspections. We received a few complaints over the weekend and Chief Blake responded to some of them. Starting May 11th they can move to five person crews and May 18th you can move to 10 person crews with additional documentation.

Ms. Lancaster stated that we are currently at 23 positive cases with no new cases today. There was further discussion about a probable phased re-opening.

Mr. Zinno asked about the nurseries and why they were not open if they are allowed to be open as an essential service. Ms. Lancaster replied that either they are choosing not to open or they are doing online ordering with curbside pick-up.

Mr. Zinno mentioned that he has spoken with John Smith regarding the NitROE systems. Ms. Lancaster asked him if he could look into where funding is coming from so when things get back to normal we can move forward with that project.

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

Respectfully submitted by Lorna Welch, Administrative Assistant.

Document(s): Letter from hotels, inns and bed and breakfasts on Martha's Vineyard