



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
June 19, 2020 – MINUTES**

Members Present: William White, James Butterick, Thomas Zinno

Others Present: Meegan Lancaster, Lorna Welch, Sean Driscoll, Jason Balboni

Chairman White called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

APPOINTMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION:

- **Downtown enforcement strategies**

This weekend Circuit Ave. and part of Kennebec (from Offshore Ale down) will be closed on Sunday for pedestrians and outdoor seating.

Ms. Lancaster stated that they had a meeting with Chief Blake and the OB Business Association and there are 14 banners that are going to end up getting installed downtown in various locations, very prominent locations and very prominent banners. So she thinks that messaging is going to help. This wide display of signage shows that this is something that's really important to the town and is going to be enforced. She and Mr. Zinno met with the police dept. yesterday and they will be handing masks out while enforcing the mask order. They were pointing out potential problems and how to instruct people about masks.

Ms. Lancaster stated that restaurants have submitted floor plans for outdoor seating to make sure they are in compliance. All look good so far. There originally was some confusion about table distance versus maintaining 6 ft. between people. There will be a 16 foot row in the middle of street in case fire or EMS needs to get up street. She feels it is important for us to be there to guide people. She can write tickets but that is not the approach they want to take. They will be providing info and masks. As summer goes on they may extend street closure to other days but currently it is just happening on Sundays. Restaurants will have specific areas for seating 7 feet off the curb and has to be cordoned off because of their liquor licenses. There are two types of plans being submitted. One is the LLA plan which is planning to modify the premises for a longer recurring period of time which has to go to the BOS for approval because it is a modification of their liquor license. The other plans are for Circuit Ave./Kennebec Ave. closure on Sundays which goes to BOH (BOS do not need to review) to ensure adherence to social distancing.

Mr. Balboni, BOS, joined the discussion.

Ms. Lancaster stated that Todd, Harbor Master, was also at the meeting yesterday and has a crew of nine assistants with four people per shift. She gave him masks and info of guidelines, etc. She feels we should be in good shape with having increased police presence, increased awareness on the part of the harbor staff and increased awareness on the part of the summer police staff. She thinks everybody's really aware and in conjunction with the signage. It's the best efforts we can make right now.

Sean Driscoll, SSA Communications Director stated that they have signage on boats (mask usage, social dist.). Signs are being printed for the OB terminal interior and mesh banners for passenger gangway and one leading to the transfer bridge which will ask people to stay in their autos and social dist. and mask usage. Announcements are being made regarding this on the boat. It's been a bit of challenge with people not complying. Next week they should be fully on deck with signage. Seastreak is running for New Bedford service, RI has cancelled their fast ferry service and he hasn't heard about NY service yet. It will depend on demand. They will probably be holding off until July.

Mr. Butterick asked for clarification about the mask order. Ms. Lancaster stated that there are some towns in MA that have the mask order in place and she would like to look into the procedure for enforcement. Somerville and Brookline do have this in place and are doing it well. Ms. Lancaster put it on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss.

Mr. Balboni asked about Donovan's area. Ms. Lancaster got confirmation from the State that you don't need to order food to have drinks. Mr. Abdelnour, owner of Nancy's, has been very active in the process of improving the flow down there and she has a good deal of faith that they will be addressing their issues more thoroughly going forward. Mr. Balboni stated that the police presence will make a big difference. He suggested that the officer be put near where the launch comes in. Ms. Lancaster stated that he may have another officer or a CSO (Community Service Officer). Mr. Balboni stated that sometimes the CSO's do not get taken seriously.

Mr. White stated that after addressing what happened last weekend he and the Board agreed to let this plan play out this weekend and see how it goes. We can regroup if necessary.

Ms. Lancaster stated that she has to be very mindful of her time and has worked 20 days straight and as it moves into summer she cannot keep up this pace for too much longer. She is very happy the budget got approved for Assistant Health Agent. She doesn't have time to develop a job description and training someone is very time consuming. The enforcement on the harbor will be hard and she is very grateful to Chief Blake and all the help the Police Dept. has been but her time is spread very thin. It would not be a bad idea for us to look at the delineation for someone else to be able to write citations.

- **Chairmanship of Board**

Mr. Zinno requested to be Co-chair for the Board. Mr. White feels that a Board Member has just as much authority as the Chairman. Ms. Lancaster stated that there are no regulations that say you cannot have a co-chair. There are specific powers afforded to the Chair so if we have a Co-chair the functions would need to be clearly delineated. Mr. Zinno stated that they have a co-chair in VH. He felt that the logic was he carried more weight if he was the Co-chair as opposed as just a member. Ms. Lancaster stated that board members can perform certain functionalities but it's important to be mindful of the open meeting law when discussing

applications or such with the public. Mr. Butterick stated that they do not have a Co-chair in Vineyard Haven, they have a Vice-chair. Mr. White does not think we should have a Co-chair and asked Mr. Zinno if he would like to be the Vice-chair. Mr. Zinno replied yes and Mr. White made a motion to make Mr. Zinno the Vice-chair of the Oak Bluffs Board of Health. All in favor. A roll call vote was also done.

AGENT / ADMINISTRATION UPDATES:

- **Reopening Town Hall**

Ms. Brough, Assistant Town Administrator, drew up a plan to space everyone out and put up plexiglass in the office service windows. There is a concern about being back in the building in any large capacity. Mr. Balboni asked if we should start using the temporary offices across the street. He thinks it would be a good idea to use that to spread people out more. Ms. Lancaster stated that now that we are going forward with the renovations it makes sense to use the space. Employees have had long term concerns about the safety of the building including poor ventilation, mold and moisture issues. Getting people across the street will really help with that. Municipalities have until July 1st to comply with the 25% occupancy of their offices. Mr. Balboni stated that there is a possibility to move people and or departments to the meeting room in the library? Eventually we will need to be out of Town Hall and not everyone will fit in the trailers. Ms. Lancaster stated that the library wants to use that room to quarantine their books when they get returned. We will also need to do staggered shifts. Mr. Butterick suggested other options like the COA building or other town owned buildings.

- **Testing site update**

As of yesterday evening 48 total cases most have been cleared, 32 are PCR tests (showing active infection) 16 are probable (a mixture between antibody testing and symptomatically positive cases). We have tested over 1200 people total as of yesterday. We have had two asymptomatic positives this week.

We have a great volunteer crew. Starting next week we will double book appointments because it is taking less time overall to do the test. The work flow is down pat. We can probably do about 180 tests per day. It can take 10 minutes if people need more coaching through the process. Other people go through very quickly.

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

Respectfully submitted by Lorna Welch, Administrative Assistant.