



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  
June 30, 2020 – MINUTES**

**Members Present:** William White, James Butterick, Thomas Zinno

**Others Present:** Meegan Lancaster, Lorna Welch, Jason Balboni

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

**APPOINTMENTS:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- **June 19, 2020** - Approved
- **June 23, 2020** - Approved

**BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION:**

- **Covid 19 ongoing management plan**

The Board discussed having a mandatory mask requirement in specified areas and the need to get it drafted and then vote on the actual language of the order.

Ms. Lancaster stated that there is broad support among the island Boards of Health to have mandatory mask use in downtown areas because of the challenges of orders from the State which require wearing a mask when you cannot maintain 6 ft. distance. Our downtown areas are crowded and maintaining 6 ft. separation is very difficult. This requirement will help with messaging and enforcement. Nantucket just issued a mandatory mask order for their downtown after having four positive tests. We will need to clearly define where those areas will be. The area would most likely include B1 district, Circuit Ave, Kennebec Ave and Dukes County Ave. and Harbor.

Mr. Butterick stated that we need to do this and we need to include the park over by the Oceanview. Mr. Zinno was concerned about the MVCMA area. Mr. Balboni was concerned about enforcement. He hates having a regulation that is not able to be being enforced properly. Ms. Lancaster stated that because these orders from the state are enforced by Boards of Health we are only ones legally able to write tickets which would be a very last step after a verbal warning then a written warning, then we would issue the ticket. The police would have to be given the ability to write tickets. There are towns where it is required and the signage would state that. She feels it simplifies it for businesses and the community because there is no question of whether or not you need to put one on. Mr. Zinno agreed that it makes it easier for everyone in general. We will be living with this for a while.

Ms. Lancaster inquired about drafting a letter to the harbor committee and Harbormaster, Mr. Alexander, regarding concerns about boating. Boating activities for Phase 2 talks about guidelines for face coverings, recreational boating maintaining a safe distance, also local rules and regulations apply. They are looking at reducing the amount of boats in the marinas/harbors. Tying boats up together is prohibited, must maintain a safe distance, family only. Mr. Zinno stated that he will also have a conversation with Mr. Alexander. Mr. Balboni stated that Mr. Abdelnour is bringing people in on launch. He feels that Mr. Alexander will have another issue with enforcement because it would be a full time job to keep people from rafting up. We are understaffed for everything we are trying to do but not to say we shouldn't do it.

Ms. Lancaster responded that we do have the Covid grant funding (\$12,000) and Mr. Albiston has been helping us out with enforcement and the testing site. We have used some of the money but we still have more to potentially go towards enforcement.

- **Updates on downtown area – ferry service, outside dining, street closures**

Mr. Balboni reported that the Circuit Ave. closure on Sundays is going well. The Cornerstore, Mocha Motts and Reliable are harder hit by the street closure but they agreed to do for the better of the rest of the establishments.

- **Funding for BOH emergency staffing**

Mr. Butterick stated that Ms. Lancaster cannot continue to work seven days per week. Ms. Lancaster was happy that funding was approved for an Assistant Health Agent but we still need to do a job description, advertise job, hire and train. This is a very time consuming process to get through. Mr. Zinno stated that we need an immediate person to help. Ms. Lancaster doesn't know what could be delegated with someone with no training.

- **Update from Wastewater Planning Committee**

Mr. Zinno stated that they did not have their meeting. They are moving towards sewer planning.

#### **AGENT / ADMINISTRATION UPDATES:**

- **Regional Planning Grant**

Ms. Lancaster stated that we were awarded the Regional Planning Grant from the State. She worked with grant writer, Mr. Hugo from the State. We are one of four groups in the State that got awarded the grant. There is reason to believe that they want to make the island the model for shared health services and are willing to put a lot of resources behind it to make sure that happens. We will create a work plan for what our goals are which they will work on with us. Ms. Lancaster will be the lead person for planning initiatives. The pandemic has shown a need for this. Mr. White congratulated Ms. Lancaster for all her work on this.

- **Testing Site**

Ms. Lancaster stated that as of yesterday we have done approximately 2300 tests. There were four positive tests which were asymptomatic and 152 pending tests.

Mr. Butterick stated that he had an appointment to be tested and it was very smoothly run and that everyone did a great job setting this up. Ms. Lancaster stated that Quest did a lot of the work planning and noted that if there is a vaccine for Covid we will need to organize a mass prophylactic clinic at the High School.

Mr. Zinno asked how restaurant staffing is being encouraged to do testing. Ms. Lancaster replied that there is an outreach effort with the public health nurses and it is also part of the pre-employment process. We have seen a lot of transient employees coming through test site based on their state ID's.

Ms. Lancaster stated that we are waiting to hear back about Marinelli beach because they had an exceedance for water quality. It is not an immediate closure because this beach has a good testing history so there will be a second sample taken. This beach may need to be closed tomorrow. All other beaches tested at very low levels which is strange with this one being high.

Mr. Balboni inquired if Park commissioners are notified on beach closures. Ms. Lancaster replied yes.

Mr. Butterick stated that Ms. Lancaster is doing a great job. Mr. White stated that she is doing an excellent job and told her to enjoy her days off.

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

Respectfully submitted by Lorna Welch, Administrative Assistant