

A joint meeting of the Melrose and Wakefield Boards of Health was held remotely on April 23, 2020. The meeting came to order at 7:03 pm. Present at the meeting remotely were Melrose Board members Maurine Garipay and Frank Brincheiro, Wakefield Board members Laurel Gourville, Elaine Silva, and Candace Linehan as well as Health Director Ruth Clay and Cindy Luongo, clerk for the Wakefield Health Department. Town Administrator Steve Maio, Wakefield Communications Director Jenn McDonald, Wakefield residents Deborah Surabian and James Horne were also present

Call to order 0703 pm by Chairs Laurel Gourville and Maurine Garipay.

Melrose BOH approved Minutes from the 4.15.20 meeting Brincheiro yes, Garipay yes 2- 0- 0

Wakefield BOH approved Minutes from the 4.15.20 meeting Linehan yes, Gourville 2-0-0 (Silva was not yet present)

### **BOH Order to require facial coverings**

The Melrose and Wakefield BOH reviewed Salem's, Everett's and Brookline's facial covering Orders. Tom Mullen, Wakefield Town Counsel, sent edits, and the boards were given a letter of support from the Mayor of Melrose Paul Brodeur. The Melrose City Solicitor had no comments. The discussion was to decide if Melrose and/or Wakefield Boards of Health want to require people to wear facial coverings while inside anywhere but their home and vehicle.

Melrose BOH members spoke first. Dr. Brincheiro stated this is a highly contagious respiratory disease and he feels that wearing a face covering is being respectful of all employees.

Garipay said she reached out to 8 essential businesses in Melrose. One of the supermarkets said 1 of 30 people are not wearing masks and those were mostly seniors. Variety stores were all on board as they have their regular customers. The pharmacies said they don't have the help to enforce and questioned how they are supposed to tell an elderly person they can't pick up their medicines, Garipay felt we should wait until May 4 when the Advisory is over.

Silva said there is a lot of anxiety about what is the safest thing; people like that other people are wearing masks.

Clay reported that both the Mayor's office and Town administrator's office as well as both health departments are receiving complaints of people not wearing masks. They are told that they don't have wear them without an Order. If there is an Order, the enforcement would be for people who are really going out of their way not to wear them. The intent is not to make money. Linehan asked who would a business call, the police? Clay said they should call the Health Department and a staff person will investigate.

Clay will add phrase "when engaging in any outdoor activity we are strongly advising face coverings". A discussion was held about the fines and a warning was included for the first violation and then fines at \$50, \$100 then \$300.

Melrose BOH Brincheiro member motioned to accept the order with the changes, seconded by Garipay. Motioned passed 2 0 0. Brincheiro Yes Garipay Yes

Wakefield BOH Linehan member motioned to accept the order with the changes, seconded by Silva. The motion passed 3 0 0 Silva Yes Linehan Yes Gourville Yes.

### **Health Directors Report**

Clay has spent the last few days completing the application for one more year of the FDA Grant which is due tomorrow.

Most housing inspections are on hold. The Health Department received a complaint of severe mold and the inspector will investigate.

COVID 19 positive cases as of today are Wakefield 136 and Melrose 97. Many of the Wakefield cases are from the nursing homes.

Clay is still attending Federal and State conference calls almost every day.

All school nurses in both communities are doing case management and contact tracing. BOH members Silva and Gourville are helping with input of data into MAVEN and the follow up of patients in isolation or quarantine.

Wakefield held a drive thru mask distribution at the Galvin Middle School on Monday April 17<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 3000 masks were given to residents of Wakefield 60 years or older or to anyone with an underlying condition. A maximum of two bags per car with 3 masks per bag were distributed. Another order of 25,000 masks are on its way to Wakefield.

Melrose is waiting on their initial mask delivery and plans to distribute them as well. Melrose Helps line continues to take addresses for people who are unable to leave their homes..

The National Guard continues to perform testing at the nursing homes.

Gourville gave a report on her outreach to the Town Councilors. Councilor Galvin-Smith has organized a group who is sewing masks. She will work with the Town on distribution. Several Councilors have delivered to seniors.

A discussion was held about involving our youth with communication efforts. Clay will talk to Catherine Dhingra about developing PSAs with the Youth Action Team and WCAT.

### **Other Business**

Wakefield resident Deb Surabaya said she was thrilled that the BOH passes this Order.

Steve Maio played a thank you message left on his voice mail from a Hillcrest Rd resident.

Next BOH meeting is scheduled for Wednesday April 29th 7pm remotely

Silva motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Linehan ...Silva Yes Linehan Yes Gourville yes

Garipay motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Brincheiro. Brincheiro yes Garipay yes

Meeting adjourned 08:30 pm by both Boards

Materials distributed:

Agenda

Copy of Everett Order

Copy of Brookline Order

Copy of Salem Order

Draft minutes of April 15, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Luongo