

A joint meeting of the Melrose and Wakefield Boards of Health was held remotely on April 15, 2020. The meeting came to order at 7:06 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. Mark Sardella from the Wakefield Item and Mike Carragi Patch Staff were also present.

Melrose BOH approved Minutes from the 3.25.20 Brincheiro yes, Garipay yes 2- 0- 0

Wakefield BOH approved Minutes from 3.25.20 3- 0- 0 Gourville yes, Silva yes, Linehan yes

Clay reported that there are currently 141 cases of COVID19 in Wakefield and 90 in Melrose.

The National Guard visited nursing homes in Melrose and Wakefield. New testing guidelines allow for the testing asymptomatic and symptomatic residents and staff. The increased testing will most likely result in an increase in cases.

Wakefield had in stock 2000 masks that they had purchased as part of emergency preparedness. They were delivered to senior living houses and the Food Pantry.

Wakefield is purchasing an addition 10,000 paper masks; a notice will be issued once they have arrived.

Melrose also had masks in stock those masks were delivered to senior housing. In addition, the Mayor created a program for people to donate cloth masks. On Monday and Tuesday Melrose Health department staff delivered masks to 101 households with 219 adult and 18 children. Included in the bag was the INTERFACE program card and a Health departments card.

Melrose has 20,000 paper masks on order once they arrive a notice will be put out how they will be distributed.

In response to complaints about lack of social distancing for those recreating at Lake Quannapowitt, parking lots around Lake Q are closed off to lower the volume. Electronic signs on how to practice distancing have been posted for a few weeks.

Clay is on conference calls every day except Thursdays including 2 extra calls a week because we are a health district. CDC conference calls and state calls has been very good about new advisories and new orders that are going out.

Karen Cronin Melrose/Wakefield Public Health nurse along with 20 school nurses are working on case management and contact tracing. Karen Cronin as the lead and school nurse Robin Adams as the assistant. COVID 19 money will pay for hours worked over their regular hours.

The Covid 19 money is also paying for a block of hotel rooms at the Four Points Sheraton for eight weeks for residents and first responders needing to isolate or quarantine outside of their home. Melrose BOH member Brincherio asked how do people know this is available to them. Clay said the nurses will give this information to them when they are doing the case management and contact tracing.

Gourville, representing the Wakefield Health department, along with Town Manager Steve Maio and Town Council Ed Dombroski, did a show today discussing local issues about COVID19 on WCAT. WCAT has invited us to put out any messages we would like to communicate.

Wakefield's Communications Director Jenn McDonald has created a half page resources guide that will be distributed with masks. We can also provide this guide to WCAT to use as screen saver. People who may not use any social media may be apt to watch local cable. Catherine Dhingra-Wakefield and Kathy Geuvera-Melrose Substance abuse prevention coordinators along with the Youth Action Team coordinators could work with the youth groups to create some PSAs.

Minutes from Wakefield BOH meeting 4.1.20 Silva motioned to accept minutes, seconded by Linehan Roll call Linehan Yes, Gourville Yes Silva Yes. 3:0:0

BOH members had a discussion about the Salem BOH order for face masks. Salem had a grocery store clerk death from COVID 19. The consensus was that they did not want to enact such an Order,

Wakefield and Melrose Inspectors will be going to all our establishments along with a hard copy of the newest Governors order that limits the number of people in grocery stores. A discussion was held that wearing face masks is an Advisory, not an Order.

The members of the Boards decided that they would like to continue to have joint remote calls on Wednesdays. Next meeting will be April 22 via WebEx.

Materials distributed:

Agenda

Motion to adjourn by Silva, seconded by Linahan. Roll call vote: Silva yes, Linehan yes, Gourville yes.

Motion to adjourn by Brincheiro, seconded by Garipay. Roll call vote: Brincheiro yes, Garipay yes.

Meeting adjourned at 07:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Luongo

Clerk