

ANDOVER BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes
April 13, 2020, 6:00 P.M.
Via Webex and Simulcast on Local Cable Access

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. Present were Pamela Linzer, Ph.D., Chair, Gopala K. Dwarakanath, M.D., Vice Chair, Deb Enegess, M.D., Clerk, and Mr. Thomas G. Carbone, Director of Public Health.

Before any discussion begins, Mr. Carbone made the following statement: *“Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, and the Governor’s March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Board of Health will be conducted via remote participation. The virtual meeting will be broadcast on Comcast Channel 22 and Verizon Channel 45. Further, a video recording of the proceedings will be posted to the Town website as soon as possible after the meeting.”*

Mr. Carbone further stated that there will not be any public involvement as part of the meeting. There will be some votes for the Board and some discussion. Anyone from the public who wishes to speak with the Health Division or the Board Members should send an e-mail to health@andoverma.gov or call 978-623-8640 tomorrow. All votes will be by Roll Call, with a reminder to the Board to introduce themselves to the public.

Mr. Carbone called Roll Call of the Board of Health Members: Pamela Linzer, Ph.D., Chair, Present; Gopala K. Dwarakanath, M.D., Vice-Chair, Present; Deb Enegess, M.D., Clerk, Present.

I. Appointments & Hearings

- N/A

II. Approval of Minutes

- # 1 – April 13, 2020

Motion by Dr. Dwarakanath, seconded by Dr. Linzer, to approve the Minutes of February 10, 2019. Unanimous approval.

Roll call: Pamela Linzer, Ph.D., Chair, Aye; Gopala K. Dwarakanath, M.D., Vice-Chair, Aye; Deb Enegess, M.D., Clerk, Aye.

III. Discussion Items

- #2 – **Coronavirus Update** – Mr. Carbone informed the Board that as of today the count of Covid-19 cases totaled 51 with 21 active cases. The case numbers go up and down; some of the cases were assigned to Andover residents who no longer live in Town. Those cases have to be moved to the community where they are living, and

some cases get moved from other communities because they now live in Andover. Active cases indicate people who have tested positive and are under isolation. They are removed from active status when they meet the case definition as set by CDC requirements. Therefore, case numbers change every day and is an indicator of our workload. Our Public Health Nurse, Cherie Monahan, is working on case investigations. Jane Morrissey, our former Public Health Nurse, came out of retirement to help us out. Joanne Belanger, our Deputy Health Director, has resigned and will now be working in Lowell beginning next week. The school nurses are helping out and we are training them in case investigations. They are also serving as liaisons to our senior facilities.

Environmental health staff have been working remotely, and are responding to questions about workplace issues, such as questions about being an essential business and if they can be open or not. They are also working on projects that we have been deferring due to lack of time. Carolina Bencosme, Health Inspector, has been working on updating the food service plan review package with North Andover and Tewksbury. Christian Vega, our Fellow from Merrimack College, has been updating charts for us with information from the State report. He is providing us with a spreadsheet with corresponding graphs which is helpful for us to anticipate where we stand. All Town Playgrounds and the Dog Park are closed. We are still urging people to continue social distancing, wear a face mask or covering when out in public and to stay home when sick.

Dr. Enegess informed the Board that she had a question recently from two people concerned with who should be using masks. The concern is that employees at grocery stores in Town were not wearing masks consistently. Dr. Enegess stated that her understanding is that the CDC as well as the State of Massachusetts states that wearing a mask is a recommendation, not a mandate. She was wondering if the Board wanted to do anything about that. Dr. Enegess stated that she thinks that the public may be confused because this is a new message that contradicts what people were told in the past. Mr. Carbone informed the Board that there are other Boards of Health in the area that are having the same discussion. The Haverhill Board of Health as well as Middleton has adopted a measure using the term that masks should be worn, not shall be worn. Mr. Carbone felt that our staff can easily contact food establishments to make sure they know that the Board recommends that their Staff should be wearing masks. Dr. Linzer asked if that should include the first responders as well. Their safety is a concern as well, and they should be reminded to wear masks. They also would serve as an example for the rest of the public. Mr. Carbone stated that he would speak to Chief Keefe and ask him to pass that along to the officers.

Mr. Carbone has been speaking with the Town Manager about mandates, and they both agree to follow the lead of Governor Baker and his administration unless things get worse in our community and then the Board of Health could take some action. Dr. Linzer was concerned about how people can wear a mask out in public when the general public may not have access to masks. Dr. Enegess replied that people can use a scarf or a bandana as a face covering instead of a mask, and there are sources out

there about how to make a mask. If you cannot social distance at least covering your face decreases the chance that you will spread the virus. Dr. Dwarakanath sent a video to Mr. Carbone showing a very easy way to make a mask using a sock and Mr. Carbone will send the video to the Board Members.

- **#3 – Appointment of Margaret Kruse as IBC Representative to Pfizer and Sarepta** - Ms. Kruse’s resume was included in the Agenda Packet showing her qualifications. Mr. Carbone stated that she was a former Board of Health and Finance Committee Member. Mr. Carbone recommended the Board appoint her as the IBC Representative to Pfizer and Sarepta.

Motion by Dr. Linzer, seconded by Dr. Enegess, to approve the appointment of Margaret Kruse as IBC Representative to Pfizer. Unanimous approval.

Roll call: Pamela Linzer, Ph.D., Chair, Aye; Gopala K. Dwarakanath, M.D., Vice-Chair, Aye; Deb Enegess, M.D., Clerk, Aye.

IV. Old Business

- N/A

V. Subdivision Definitive Plans

- N/A

VI. Septic System Variances/Local Upgrade Approval

- **#4 – 37 Gray Road - LUA to allow the Leaching Facility to be 3’ above the SHWT, 4’ Required – Ratify** - Mr. Carbone approved the LUA administratively, and the system is now in place. Mr. Carbone recommended that the Board of Health ratify the LUA.

Motion by Dr. Linzer, seconded by Dr. Dwarakanath, to ratify the LUA for 37 Gray Road to allow the leaching facility to be 3’ above the SHWT, where 4’ is required. Unanimous approval.

Roll call: Pamela Linzer, Ph.D., Chair, Aye; Gopala K. Dwarakanath, M.D., Vice-Chair, Aye; Deb Enegess, M.D., Clerk, Aye.

- **#5 – 14-16 Willard Circle – LUA to allow the leaching facility to be 4’ above the SHWT, 5’ required** – Mr. Carbone explained to the Board that the Septic system has not been installed yet. The property is on the shores of Fosters Pond in an area where there are private wells and no public water. There are no wells within 100’ of the leach field. He has asked the Design Engineer, William DuFresne, to locate the water supplies for two other adjacent properties to make sure that they are outside of the 100’ minimum. This will have to go before the Conservation Commission for an

Order of Conditions before the work can be done. Mr. Carbone recommended that the Board approve the LUA.

Motion by Dr. Linzer, seconded by Dr. Enegess to approve the LUA for 14-16 Willard Circle to allow the leaching facility to be 4' above the SHWT, where 5' is required. Unanimous approval.

Roll call: Pamela Linzer, Ph.D., Chair, Aye; Gopala K. Dwarakanath, M.D., Vice-Chair, Aye; Deb Enegess, M.D., Clerk, Aye.

VII. Staff Reports

A. #6 - Director's Reports:

- **Important Dates:**

- May 18, 2020 at 6 p.m. – Board of Health Meeting
- June 15, 2020 at 6 p.m. – Board of Health Meeting

B. #7 – Community Health Report for February, 2020 - The Community Health Report for February, 2020 was for informational purposes only.

C. #8 – Environmental Health Reports for February, 2020 – The Environmental Health Inspectors' Reports for February, 2020 were for informational purposes only.

VIII. Board Member Reports

- **Board of Health requesting update on Miscellaneous Items** – Dr. Linzer asked if food inspections are on hold during this time, and Mr. Carbone replied that they are not doing any food inspections at this time. He will be doing very limited soil testing and can go out on a complaint if necessary.

The Board had been informed that Mr. Carbone's Administrative Secretary will be retiring and the Deputy Director of Public Health has resigned. He will be posting the Administrative Secretary position with the goal to have someone start in the beginning of June so there will be a couple of weeks' overlap in training before the secretary's last day. The job description for the Deputy Director of Public Health has to be updated before posting. He is hoping to get the posting up by the end of the week with the goal of starting interviews in May. He believed the position will most likely be filled by July 1, 2020.

IX. Adjournment

Motion by Dr. Linzer, seconded by Dr. Dwarakanath, to adjourn at 6:26 p.m. Unanimous approval.

Roll call: Pamela Linzer, Ph.D., Chair, Aye; Gopala K. Dwarakanath, M.D., Vice-Chair, Aye; Deb Enegess, M.D., Clerk, Aye.

Per the New Open Meeting Law, the following is a list of the documents that were either distributed to the Andover Board of Health before the meeting in a packet, or at the meeting.

1. Draft Minutes from the Feb, 2019 BOH Meeting.
2. Memo from Mr. Carbone to the Board of Health, dated March 11, 2020, concerning his request to appoint Margaret N. Kruse, Ph.D. as IBC Representative to Pfizer & Sarepta, along with supporting Resume listing her experience and qualifications.
3. Memo from Mr. Carbone to the BOH, dated 3/12/2020, concerning the LUA request for 37 Gray Rd. along with a copy of the upgrade septic plan.
4. Memo from Mr. Carbone to the BOH, dated 4/8/2020, concerning the LUA request for 14-16 Willard Circle with a copy of the upgrade septic plans.
5. A copy of the Health Division write-up for the Annual Town Report.
6. Health Division Community Health Report.
7. Health Division Environmental Health Report.