

**CITY OF GLOUCESTER**  
**Board of Health**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**April 27, 2020**  
**4:00 p.m.**  
**Remote Meeting Via Zoom**

Board members virtually present courtesy of a system organized by the City's IT Department: Chairperson: Dr. Richard Sagall; Vice–Chairperson: Robert Harris; Frederick Cowan; Joe Rosa; and Claudia Schweitzer. Present from the Health Department: Health Director: Karin Carroll; Assistant Director: Max Schenk. Also present: Harbormaster: TJ Ciarametaro; Chairman of the Waterways: Tony Gross; Chief Administrative Officer: Jim Destino; Deputy Harbormaster: Chad Johnson; and Assistant Chief Administrative Officer: Vanessa Krawczyk.

The meeting started at 4:00 p.m.

This virtual meeting was recorded by audio in accordance with State Open Meeting Law.

**PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATION**

There was no “Public Communication”.

**MOTION** by Mr. Cowan to approve the Gloucester Board of Health minutes of the meeting of April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as written. **Seconded** by Mr. Rosa. **CARRIED.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Provisions for Reopening Public Landings and Boat Ramps Closed by Board of Health  
Emergency Order Dated April 15, 2020-**

*Mr. Schenk* stated that in conjunction with the Mayor's Office the Board of Health sent out an emergency order in precaution until the Waterways Board and the Harbormaster's Office had an opportunity to come up with a plan for ensuring safety at boat ramps and public landings. He stated that the Waterways Board and the Harbormaster have come up with recommendations. He stated that the Health Department is satisfied with the recommendations with the caveat that they are responsible for maintaining those assurances.

*TJ Ciarametaro* stated that they have spent a lot of time discussing the issue in the last couple weeks. He stated that they are very confident in the recommendations that are before the board.

*Mr. Cowan* stated that he is concerned about the protocol for gas docks. *Mr. Ciarametaro* responded that they do not have that many marinas in Gloucester that fuel and the marinas have their own policies that are in place now. He stated that an attendant fills the tank, so it is

nearly a contactless interaction. He stated that the City does not have any fuel stations; they are all privately owned. *Mr. Gross* stated that marinas have been given their own set of guidance from the State.

*Mr. Ciarametaro* stated that they have a porta-potty that is usually at the ramp but they are not delivering that just yet. *Mr. Gross* stated that the City does not provide any carts but they wanted to include a precaution about them.

*Mr. Rosa* asked why this was deemed important now, as opposed to a month from now. *Mr. Ciarametaro* responded that there has already been an influx of people using boats because of the quarantine. He stated that people are looking to get out of their houses and boats are a good way to get outdoors. *Mr. Rosa* stated that he is concerned that people see boating as more a social outing where people invite their friends. *Mr. Ciarametaro* stated that the boat ramps that they have in Gloucester are in partnership with the State of Massachusetts and they control 290 access areas throughout the State; all other 285 (Gloucester has 5) are open and remain open. He stated that it is important that they get these provisions out there because people are going to go to other towns to put their boats in the water and that will lead to more social interactions.

*Ms. Schweitzer* stated that from a mental health point of view she can understand why people would want to be out on the water if they can do it responsibly.

*Mr. Cowan* asked about people gathering on the beaches. *Mr. Ciarametaro* responded that that would fall under the State advisory where no more than 10 people shall gather and the Harbormaster and the Gloucester Police Department would monitor that.

*Ms. Carroll* stated that we are still under a stay at home advisory, so these policies are not an invitation for people to go out. *Mr. Gross* stated that Gloucester is the only community in the entire State that does not have their ramps open.

*Mr. Cowan* stated that these provisions cover the safety issues for opening the ramp.

*Ms. Schweitzer* stated that if people can have their boats in the water because they own a private dock then everybody should have that same access.

*Mr. Schenk* suggested that the Board of Health keep strong communication with the Waterways and the Harbormaster. *Mr. Gross* stated that there are cameras at the boat ramp that surveil 24 hours a day.

*Mr. Johnson* stated that they can get these provisions out to nearly 2000 boaters through their database, so they can easily disseminate them.

*Mr. Gross* stated that the Waterways Board was in favor of forwarding the provisions to the Board of Health.

*By telephone: Val Gilman* City Councilor asked if the Board could get the information in the provisions to the yacht clubs in Gloucester. *Mr. Ciarametaro* responded that they will update the yacht clubs appropriately and the information will also be posted in the newspapers and on Good Morning Gloucester.

*By telephone: Robert Allen* of Gloucester stated that he has been a Gloucester resident for 45 years. He stated that he would definitely follow the guidelines that are being discussed. He stated that it is another outlet to get out and get fresh air with his family. He stated that the guidelines will keep people safe.

*Ms. Carroll* asked *Mr. Ciarametaro* if he could help her remind people that the stay at home advisory is still in effect

**MOTION** by *Mr. Cowan* that the Gloucester Board of Health approve the provision dated April 27, 2020 for re-opening of public landings and public boat ramps as printed. **Seconded** by *Ms. Schweitzer*. **CARRIED.**

#### Update on COVID-19 Response Actions-

*Ms. Carroll* stated that the number of Covid-19 cases are still increasing in Gloucester. She stated that Gloucester has had 131 cases, with about 65-70 active cases. She stated that they are still in the surge but the last three days has shown a decrease in the number of new cases. She stated that they have enough PPE and resources in Gloucester. She stated that they are trying to come up with regional policies about reopening of particular places.

*Ms. Schweitzer* stated that she is concerned about the lack of testing. *Ms. Carroll* responded that testing is becoming more available, but they still see a wide-range of providers diagnosing without a test. Providers should be sending patients to the Danvers outpatient or to Urgent Care in Gloucester.

*Mr. Cowan* asked who was enforcing safety policies for businesses that are deemed essential in Gloucester. *Ms. Carroll* responded that the Health Department is enforcing the use of PPE and safety concerns. She stated that they have been educating those businesses and if they get a complaint, they will visit the business.

*Ms. Carroll* stated that they requested that the National Guard come into the two long-term care facilities to test for Covid-19. She stated that they came to one of the facilities and it went very well and the other did want to have testing done. She stated the Board of Health implemented an emergency order forcing them to test since their population is at such high risk. She stated that they agreed to test but wanted to do the testing themselves. She stated that they have one week to complete testing and can be fined if they do not comply.

*Mr. Rosa* stated that the high school and middle school are making face shields and are available to order for facilities in need of PPE. He stated that they have made over 1000 already.

*Mr. Cowan* asked if the Health Department had any guidance on how the library could safely operate when re-opening occurs. *Mr. Schenk* stated that if it could be sent to him after the meeting, he could look at and appraise *Mr. Cowan's* information from Northeast Document Conservation Center.

### **CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Next Regular Monthly Meeting Board of Health- The next Board of Health monthly meeting will be TBD.

**MOTION** by *Mr. Cowan* to adjourn.  
Seconded by *Mr. Rosa*. **CARRIED.**  
MEETING ADJOURNED – 5:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by:

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Richard Sagall, Chairperson

Documents Referenced:

April 27, 2020 Board of Health Agenda  
Minutes of April 10th meeting  
Draft order to reopen landings and ramps to public