

CITY OF GLOUCESTER
Board of Health
Minutes of the Meeting
June 4, 2020
6:00 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.

The meeting started at 6:00 p.m.

This meeting is recorded by video and audio in accordance with state Open Meeting Law. Consistent with the Governor's orders suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law and banning gatherings of more than 10 people, this meeting will be conducted by remote participation. If you are calling in on a phone you can press Star 9 (*9) to request to speak. If you are watching on a computer or device there is a "raise hand" button that you can tap or press to request to speak. Please use either of these options during oral communications to be recognized to speak.

PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATION

Rob Russell of 40 Rockport Road "appeared" before the board via phone. He stated that he would like to encourage the Board of Health to follow the State guidelines for beaches and parking lots on the two public lots at Long Beach that are not run by the City.

Mr. Schenk stated that he left a message at the Department of Public Health about the issue and has not received a response yet.

Chris Leghorn, of 6 Chapel Street "appeared" before the board via phone. She stated she appeared before the board in the past regarding her concern about the noise coming from the Atlantic Fish and Seafood Factory on East Main Street. She stated that sometimes the sound is better but sometimes it is bad and she cannot open her windows. She asked if they have installed the chimneys to direct the sound upward yet.

Mr. Schenk stated that he left a message for Nick Osgood, the president of Atlantic Fish and Seafood to give the Board of Health an update. He stated that at the last update, the factory had installed the sound deadening devices on the roof but had not yet done sound testing after the installation.

Mr. Cowan stated that he will make a site visit to inspect if the chimneys were installed.

The board agreed to add the item to the agenda for next month and to obtain an update from Mr. Osgood.

MOTION by Mr. Rosa to approve the Gloucester Board of Health minutes of the meeting of May 21st, 2020 as written. **Seconded** by Ms. Schweitzer. **CARRIED**.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no "New Business".

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Covid-19 Response Actions-

Ms. Carroll stated that city-wide there are about 50 active cases of Covid-19. She stated that there have been 22 deaths in the community. She stated that there have been about 220 cases in the City to date. She stated that she suspects that Governor Baker will move to Phase 2 next week and that will allow outdoor dining, hotel and motel occupancy, and inside retail shopping (at 40% capacity). She stated that they have been working with the Chamber of Commerce and businesses to assist with the re-opening. She stated that the Public Health Nurse is working on an educational video to assist, as well.

Ms. Carroll stated that the beaches are open and they have been getting concerns voiced by the public about the number of people out without masks. She stated that there is no enforcement from the Police Department and or the Health Department but they can step in to educate if needed.

Ms. Schweitzer asked if Phase 2 will only include restaurants that already have outdoor dining or if there will be provisions that allow certain restaurants to place seating on the street or sidewalks. *Ms. Carroll* responded that restaurants are discussing the issue with the City and the City's reopening committee.

Mr. Rosa asked if they heard from Biobot regarding wastewater treatment and testing for the presence of Covid-19. He stated that testing the wastewater for the presence of Covid-19 can give them data as to whether they are opening too soon. *Mr. Schenk* responded that they just heard from Biobot today and two of the Board of Health members generously donated to allow Biobot to test for three weeks. He stated that the Treasurer's Office just needs to approve the purchase to get a purchase order and then it will be pushed through under a Covid-19 priority.

Mr. Cowan asked if they were getting any inquiries from restaurants or other businesses for PCR testing. *Ms. Carroll* responded that she has not had that inquiry from the business community but other establishments such as Action and the Health Center have inquired. She stated that they are looking into testing from a possible private partnership in the community. Mr. Cowan drew the board's attention to Sean Penn's California based NGO Community

Organized Relief Effort. CORE's model offers training and funding in a nationwide effort to enable a community's volunteer labor force to provide anyone with twice per week PCR testing.

The board discussed the demonstrations that are being held in communities. *Ms. Carroll* stated that the position of the Department of Public Health is that they should not attend or manage the demonstrations. *Ms. Schweitzer* stated that she attended one of the demonstrations and everyone was wearing masks.

The board agreed that they want people to social distance or wear a mask if social distancing is not possible but will not take a position at the demonstrations.

The board discussed whether they wanted to make a statement on inequality and agreed that it is already part of their mission statement and no further action is necessary.

The board thanked *Ms. Carroll* for the data graphics on Covid-19. *Ms. Carroll* stated that *Vanessa Krawczyk* created the graphics.

Chairperson Sagall asked for an update on the Dental Center. *Ms. Carroll* responded that the Board will be updated at the July meeting.

Supplemental First Aid at City Beaches-

Ms. Carroll stated that the beaches have their own first aid kits and lifeguards that report to DPW. She stated that she reached out to the DPW regarding training and including Narcan in the first aid kits, last year when the Board of Health requested that anywhere there was an AED machine, there should also be Narcan. She stated that the DPW does not want to include Narcan in the first aid kits at the beach. She stated that she feels that it is an essential part of any first aid kit and the Public Health Nurse agrees. She stated that they have been continually met with resistance. She stated that if lifeguards have done their training in the last two years, they would've been trained on how to administer Narcan. She stated that they heard back from the Director of DPW and he stated that lifeguards at the beaches will not administer Narcan. She stated that she has not followed-up yet to find out what the barriers are.

The board agreed that this life-saving medication should be available on the beach.

Mr. Rosa stated that there are recombinant DNA regulations that were close to implementation when the pandemic hit and there is now recombinant DNA work being done in the City. He stated that none of the work that is being done is dangerous. He stated that New England Biolabs also asked if they use the space at Blackburn that the Biotech Academy is currently not using. He stated that he is having a Zoom meeting with them on Monday to inform them as to what the requirements are in Gloucester.

CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS

Next Regular Monthly Meeting Board of Health- The next Board of Health monthly meeting will be on July 2, 2020 at 6 pm.

MOTION by Mr. Cowan to adjourn.
Seconded by Mr. Rosa. **CARRIED.**
MEETING ADJOURNED – 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by:

Richard Sagall, Chairperson

Documents Referenced:

June 4, 2020 Board of Health Agenda
Minutes of May 21st, 2020 meeting