

CITY OF GLOUCESTER
Board of Health
Minutes of the Meeting
August 6, 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; Gloucester Community Emergency Response Team Manager: Carol McMahon; and Gloucester Dental Center Hygienist: Vanessa Doucette.

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

Debra Kramer, of 318 Concord Street appeared before the board. *Ms. Kramer* stated that there has been a change in the law regarding mosquito control. She stated that she has spoken to the Board of Health in the past about joining the Northeast Mosquito Control District and the City Council was not eager to join because of the cost. She stated that under the new law it may be possible to request testing for EEE. She stated that they are not interested in spraying but knowing what types of risks are in mosquitoes so they know how to behave accordingly.

The board agreed to put the item on the agenda for the next Board of Health meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Harris to approve the Gloucester Board of Health minutes of the meeting of July 2nd, 2020 as written. **Seconded** by Ms. Schweitzer. **CARRIED.**

MOTION by Mr. Harris to approve the Gloucester Board of Health Septic Review Subcommittee minutes of the meeting of June 29th, 2020 as written. **Seconded** by Ms. Schweitzer. **CARRIED.** Mr. Cowan **abstained.**

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion Re: 2020 Flu Clinics-

Carol McMahon appeared before the board. She stated that she has been temporarily assigned to the Health Department to work with Covid issues. She stated that because Covid and the seasonal flu together can cause overcrowding of the hospitals they are trying to promote the flu shot. She stated September and October are the best times to get the flu vaccine. She stated that because of the restrictions they have with social distancing they will not be able to hold their usual flu clinic forums which is posing a challenge. She stated that they will be looking at senior and elders first, then first responders and other essential workers, and school children. She stated they will have seniors at the senior housing make an appointment and the vaccine will be done going door to door. She stated that paramedics were able to administer H1N1 vaccines in the past and they have requested to the State that they are allowed to administer the flu vaccine this year due to the challenges they are facing. She stated that they are working with the schools to vaccinate early so they can administer the vaccines outside. They are also looking into a drive-through flu vaccine clinic. *Mr. Rosa* stated that they might want to look into reaching out to the Biotech Academy. The board thanked Ms. McMahon.

Discussion Re: Children's Dental Center-

Ms. Carroll stated that there has been a lot of changes to the Dental Center in the last year. She stated that when the school closed in March, the Dental Center closed as well. She stated that they are working on a plan to re-open.

Vanessa Doucette, hygienist for the Dental Center, appeared before the board. She stated that the way the center is set up it will be a little tricky for them to open without modifications. She stated that they are thinking about working different days which would decrease the hours but would also decrease the amount of people in the center. She stated that they will need plexiglass at the front desk, no-touch thermometers, sanitizer, N95 masks, face shields, disposable scrub caps and lab coats, and air purifiers. She stated that they are going to have to have families wait outside because their waiting room will not allow people to stay six feet away from others.

Ms. Carroll stated that their hope in the future is to be more mobile and do dental work on site at the schools. She stated that there may be an operating loss this year with all the extra supplies they are going to need and the reduced amount of patients due to the pandemic. *Mr. Cowan* suggested using a bus as a waiting area outside. *Mr. Rosa* stated that UV light between visits might be acceptable for sanitizing. *Ms. Doucette* stated that the ADA is recommending air filters. The board thanked Ms. Doucette.

Discussion Re: Concerns About DESE Quarantine Guidelines for the School Community-

Ms. Carroll stated that when the DESE (Department of Education and Secondary Education) came out with guidelines for reopening schools they were different from the guidelines that have been set forth by DPH. She stated that two main differences are the distance decrease from 6 feet to 3 feet and the amount of time required to quarantine. She stated that if there is an index

case in a classroom, the 3-4 students that are truly close contact with the index case would be asked to quarantine for 14 days regardless of what a test might show within those 14 days in normal contact tracing set forth by DPH rules. However, the DESE's recommendation is that those students who are close contact could get a Covid test and if it is negative then they can return to school without waiting the full 14 days. She stated that many local boards are stating that social distancing and contact tracing must be consistent with DPH and not DESE.

The board agreed to endorse the DPH recommendations, not the DESE recommendations, for the reopening of schools.

OLD BUSINESS

UPDATE: 159 East Main Street Noise Complaint and Sound Re-test Requirement from July 11, 2019-

Mr. Schenk stated that at the last meeting the board requested a site visit and *Mr. Cowan* volunteered to do that. He stated that they were not able to coordinate to do a site visit.

Nick Osgood, managing partner of NSDJ Real Estate LLC and president of Atlantic Fish and Seafood at 159 East Main Street appeared before the board via telephone. He stated that Sentex is coming on August 10th, 2020 at 10:30 p.m. and they will shut the plant down entirely to measure the ambient sound in the area. *Mr. Cowan* stated that he will attend.

Mr. Schenk stated that he forwarded an email from a butter, Chris Leghorn regarding her concerns with the sound coming from the plant.

Chairperson Sagall asked if there was anyone who would like to speak on the issue. There was no one.

Update on Covid-19 Response Actions-

Ms. Carroll stated that the Health Department is predominantly working on the complaints and inquiries that come in daily and working with the schools on their reopening plans. She stated that there are 6 active cases in Gloucester. She stated that the long term care facilities are in good shape. She stated that they are concerned with the slight increase in cases and are watching them closely. She stated that they are excited to receive the Biobot wastewater reports in the next week or so. *Mr. Cowan* proposed testing the effluent collected in septic system pump-out trucks. *Ms. Carroll* stated that she has been speaking to CVS regarding testing but they will only test at stores that have Minute Clinics. She stated that they have been trying to partner with Beauport Ambulance who are certified to do Covid testing but they have an 8-10 day test results turn around.

The board thanked the Health Department for their efforts around the pandemic.

CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS

Next Regular Monthly Meeting Board of Health- The next Board of Health monthly meeting will be on September 3, 2020 at 6 pm.

MOTION by Mr. Cowan to adjourn.
Seconded by Mr. Rosa. **CARRIED.**
MEETING ADJOURNED – 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by:

Richard Sagall, Chairperson

Documents Referenced:

August 6, 2020 Board of Health Agenda
Minutes of July 2nd, 2020 meeting
Minutes of June 29th, 2020 meeting